# Powerful bomb defused inside Davao mall

STORY ON PAGE A2

NASAAN ANG EBIDENSIYA ?

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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# 2 mistresses richer than Loi, says Joker

## 'Laarni, Guia have more in the bank'

By Martin P. Marfil

**TWO of President Estrada's mistresses have much bigger bank accounts than that of First Lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, the alleged recipient of an P8.4-million check from Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, according to Rep. Joker Arroyo.**

"They have bigger running balances," Arroyo said yesterday, referring to former starlets Laarni Enriquez and Guia Gomez.

The Makati City lawmaker is a member of the House prosecution team in the impeachment case against the President.

Reports on the bank accounts of the President's mistresses came as a member of the House prosecution team revealed that Mr. Estrada kept another secret bank account containing a "huge" amount of money.

The prosecutor, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the account was on top of the President's "Jose Velarde" accounts with Equitable PCI Bank and the "Kelvin Garcia" account with Allied Bank.

"We have stumbled upon another account that uses another name in another bank but has the same beneficial owner. The name leads to Malacañang. We would be coming out with it . . . hopefully soon," the prosecutor said.

Records of the Citibank branch in Greenhills, San Juan, where the First Lady maintained an account showed that she had a book balance of P11.89 million and an available balance of P3.49 million as of Oct. 4, 1999.

On Friday, the prosecution came out with documents showing that the First Lady received from Singson two checks, totaling P8.4 million, on Oct. 4, 1999.

The governor earlier told the Senate impeachment court that he gave some of the "jueteng" money he collected for the President to members of the First Family.

Asked if the funds that Enriquez and Gomez kept in the accounts were part of the alleged "jueteng" payoffs to the President, Arroyo said he was not sure but added "it is unreported wealth."

Arroyo earlier said the President had as much as P2 billion in deposits stashed in several bank accounts but declared a net worth of only P35.8 million in 1999.

The "unexplained wealth" is part of the second Article of Impeachment (graft and corrupt practices) against the President.

2 MISTRESSES/ A14

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin brings to a close the Jubilee Year with a Sunday Mass at the Manila Cathedral. Yesterday, the Feast of the Epiphany, also marked the end of the Christmas season. JOAN BONDOC

# Critics say naming Angara won't improve Estrada image

By Andrea T. Echavez
and Armand N. Nocum

OPPOSITION groups yesterday criticized the naming of Edgardo Angara as executive secretary, saying it was a desperate move to redeem the "sinking popularity" of President Estrada.

A former presidential aide also said the appointment of Angara and his subordinates in the agriculture department to juicy posts has incurred the ire of outgoing Ambassador Ernesto Maceda, a key supporter of the President.

As a condition for him to accept the post of "Little President," Angara reportedly managed to wangle the appointments of Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban as his successor and Assistant Secretary Maria Cecilia Fernandez as chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

Quezon City Rep. Mike Defensor said putting Angara in his new post could not compensate for Mr. Estrada's shortcomings, describing it as a "mission impossible."

While Angara "is a good and a talented man," he is bound to fail in his new job as "presidential babysitter," Defensor said in a statement.

"For all his skills, Angara will have a hard time teaching an old dog new tricks, or even to behave, more so if the subject of instruction has an infinite knack for backsliding," he said.

He said that, with Mr. Estrada's character, it was "inconceivable" for him to hand over the reins of government to a *de facto* prime minister and just be relegated to ceremonial roles.

"Thus, the public must not be deceived into thinking that the government has been kept safe from (Mr. Estrada) through his act of surrendering his powers to Angara," Defensor warned.

A lawyers' group assailed Angara's "subtle power grab in getting himself appointed" to Malacañang.

CRITICS/ A14

# Contrasting Erap, Edong work styles incompatible

By Amando Doronila

**ANALYSIS**

THE APPOINTMENT of Edgardo Angara as executive secretary amid the most serious political crisis rocking the Estrada administration marks a bloodless Palace coup in which the President has yielded vast powers to Angara on the day-to-day running of government.

It reminds me of the ceding of important executive powers last year by Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid to Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri when he faced a threat of impeachment in the Indonesian parliament over charges of incompetence, corruption and inability to curb the separatist rebellions in Indonesia's Outer Islands.

The ceding by President Estrada of his key executive powers—especially over appointments of senior officials and the vetting of major contracts with the government—to Angara makes him the most powerful executive secretary since Jorge Vargas, President Manuel L. Quezon's trusted alter ego.

CONTRASTING/ A14

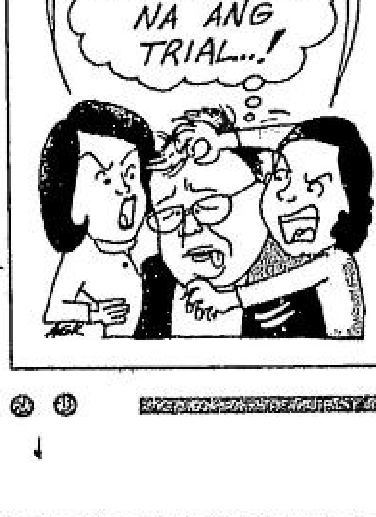
# *Trial becomes personal to Cabinet men*

By Armand N. Nocum

THE IMPEACHMENT trial is sowing discord not only among friends but also among family members of Cabinet officials.

"Once, my wife and sister had a disagreement over this matter," Felipe Medalla, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said in the "Jeep ni Erap" radio and television program on Saturday.

TRIAL/ A14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HINDEEE!!
SANA MATAPOS NA ANG TRIAL...!

# Sin: Jubilee Year was 'source of hope'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE JUBILEE Year is over, and so is the Christmas season.

But Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday said the political and economic crises that plagued the country during the Jubilee Year as well as Christmas should not be a cause for despair.

"The Jubilee Year has inspired us not to be afraid to denounce the evils of corruption, deceit, violence and injustice and to work for genuine peace," Sin said after shutting the Jubilee Door of the Manila Cathedral ending the Church's celebration of the Holy Year in the Philippines.

Sin said the country's crises, which made most Filipinos "desperate, forlorn, indifferent and helpless" during the Holy Year, were meant to strengthen their Christian faith.

"No Christian can ever be a pessimist. It is not coincidental that we experienced a lot of purification and challenges. The Jubilee Year has served as our source of hope and strength," he said.

Sin called on Filipino Catholics to repent particularly "for the separation of the faith from the political life of this land."

Yesterday, the Feast of the Three Kings, also marked the end of the Christmas season.

SIN/ A14

# Memory of LRT bombing haunts last man sitting

By Christian V. Esguerra

HE SAT frozen in shock while the world exploded around him. When he looked around, dazed and wounded, he was the last man standing—or rather, sitting—in Light Rail Transit Coach 1037.

All around him lay the maimed and bloodied figures of fellow passengers who, seconds earlier, had been chatting animatedly or texting friends on their cellular phones.

"I saw them all. I saw their agony. I heard their cries," bomb blast survivor Ernesto Santos, 56, said in Filipino in his hospital bed.

The memory of the explosion, which killed at least 15 and wounded around 60 others on Dec. 30, haunts him. "Sometimes, I can't sleep," he said, one eye teary and swollen shut.

The blast, the first of five bomb attacks on

MEMORY/ A4

# 2 widows of model cops united in grief

SPO4 Diana Gutierrez (left) and Zosima Salvador share the loss and heroism of their husbands. RANDY HORMILLADA

By Alcuin Papa

ONE won his beloved's heart with songs. The other had known his sweetheart since childhood.

SPO4 Diana Gutierrez and Zosima Salvador have bonded closely since the day that their husbands finally lost a running gamble with death.

The wives of SPO4 Roberto Gutierrez and Insp. Nestor Salvador, who were killed when the bomb they were defusing in Makati City exploded on Dec. 30, were pillars of strength in their work and personal lives.

That bloody day changed many lives, including those of Diana and Zosima. Gutierrez was killed instantly, while Salvador was seriously wounded and died that night at the Makati Medical Center.

Diana, herself a police officer assigned to the Western Police District's Women's and Children's Desk, was on duty that afternoon, while Zosima remembers with painful clarity the last day she saw her husband.

"That morning, when he asked me for his socks, I pleaded with him to stay home since it was the holidays. But he insisted that he go to work. He was that dedicated to his job," recalled Zosima in Filipino in an interview in their simple house in Quezon City.

2 WIDOWS/ A4

PANANAKOT TALAGA ANG HABOL NG MAY GAWA N'YAN!

## Second FRONT PAGE

# Deadly bomb found in Davao mall

**DAVAO CITY—Shopping malls here became virtual ghost towns at the weekend after news spread on Saturday that a "powerful bomb" had been discovered in one mall.**

Earlier that day, police chief Panfilo Lacson had announced in the weekly "Jeep Ni Erap" television and radio program that intelligence reports indicated the next target of the bombers would be the cities of Davao and Cebu.

On Saturday night, traffic on a 5-km stretch of the North Luzon Expressway in San Fernando, Pampanga, stood still for almost three hours while a explosive and ordnance demolition team from the regional police recovered what later turned out to be a smoke grenade.

Police stopped traffic on both north and south lanes in the Sto. Tomas town section of the expressway after the Philippine National Construction Co. alerted the San Fernando police that a bomb had been left on Km 76 of the tollway at about 3 p.m.

The Davao City bomb, reportedly placed in a box and "alarm clock-operated," was powerful enough "to rip through concrete walls, cause extensive damage and claim several lives if it had exploded in populated areas like malls," said Senior Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, the city police chief.

Garcia said the bomb was recovered at 4 p.m. on Friday and neutralized two hours later. But the police made the announcement only during a press conference on Saturday afternoon.

Bomb experts from the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit (SATU) in Davao City reported that the bomb contained gunpowder and weighed about a kilo.

Garcia said Lacson had phoned him on Jan. 1, warning that the bombers' next target would be Davao City.

The mall's management expressed surprise over the reported bomb, however.

Sources said the box containing the purported bomb had been discovered some three weeks ago and brought to the basement office of the mall's owner. At the time, the management thought the package merely contained dry goods and that the customer who may have left it would return to claim it.

When nobody turned up to claim the box, the management, as a precautionary measure, decided to call the police on Jan. 5.

SATU operatives said they took the box at around 4 p.m. on Jan. 5 and immediately brought it to their office in Camp Domingo Leonor here.

At around 6 p.m., SATU bomb experts concluded the box contained a bomb and immediately neutralized it.

Garcia would not say if the bomb was the work of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. He said it was planted by the same group that was behind the bomb scares in Mindanao last May.

Lacson claimed on Saturday that the police was "100 sure" the MILF was behind the Metro Manila bombings.

In the North Expressway case, the San Fernando police found what appeared to be a bomb in a black belt bag placed under a billboard.

The bag's contents turned out not to be homemade bomb but a smoke grenade to which an electrical tape had been attached. *Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# *Military ready to help cops arrest Salamat, Murad et al.*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military is ready to help police arrest leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front charged with last week's fatal bombings in Metro Manila, an official said yesterday.

But a spokesperson for the MILF again rejected the government's claim it was behind the bombings and warned their leaders would not go down without a fight.

Also yesterday, opposition lawmakers and a militant group criticized President Estrada's orders to resume military offensives against the MILF, with one solon warning it could deepen the fiscal crisis and further bloat "the untamed budget deficit."

Southern Command spokesperson Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias said government troops could be tapped to help police in taking into custody leaders of the 13,000-strong MILF after they were accused of plotting the series of bomb attacks on Dec. 30 that killed 22 and injured about 100.

Covarrubias said if there was a warrant of arrest for MILF leaders, military troops could be used to back up Philippine National Police operatives in serving the warrant.

He said however that troops would not hesitate to seize any wanted MILF leader in the event an encounter takes place.

PNP chief Panfilo Lacson on Friday ordered the filing of multiple murder charges against MILF chair Salamat Hashim, his military chief Mohammad Murad, political adviser Ghazali Jaafar and several other MILF members who allegedly took part in the attacks.

Lacson said there was clear evidence linking Afghan-trained MILF rebels to the bombings, adding that police planned to "neutralize the leadership" of the group.

President Estrada subsequently ordered suspension of peace talks with the MILF which were earlier planned to resume this year.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu yesterday flatly rejected the accusations, stressing that ongoing rebel offensives were confined to the island of Mindanao and targeted only troops, not civilians.

He said it was "all right" for the government to suspend the talks, because "we are not the ones who are seeking its resumption."

Accusing the MILF of carrying out the bomb attacks was a "convenient excuse" for the police who do not have leads on the real suspects, Kabalu claimed.

MILF leaders, he said, are not covered by Philippine laws because they do not recognize the Constitution, and any attempts to arrest them could lead to bloodshed.

"We are ready to die for our cause. We are ready for any eventuality," Kabalu said in a phone interview from his Mindanao base.

Yesterday, the Moro Christian People's Alliance urged Lacson to release a suspected MILF member, Ismail Abbas, even as it refused to accept the apology of the military for the arrest of 19 Muslim residents of Culiat in Quezon City.

MCPA spokesperson Amirah Ali Lidasan hit at Lacson for criticizing the military intelligence for the raids, saying "(Lacson's) style is actually no different, if not more hideous."

She maintained that Abbas was abducted and not arrested as Lacson has claimed.

"Abbas was abducted on Jan. 3 and had been missing for two days. It was only on the night of Jan. 5 that Gen. Lacson and the police admitted they had custody of him, coinciding with the release of the Culiat 19," Lidasan said.

Abbas, an FX taxi driver, was charged with multiple murder, along with Salamat and other MILF leaders, for the Dec. 30 bombings. He is being detained at the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force headquarters in Camp Crame.

Abbas' wife, Anda, visited her husband for the first time last Friday, accompanied by her relatives, human rights advocates and lawyer Romeo Capulong.

Abbas related that he was tortured and forced to sign a statement of confession that the police had written, Lidasan said.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri described the President's order to resume the offensives against the MILF as another diversionary tactic to draw public attention away from his impeachment trial.

Zubiri said Malacañang has followed a "formulaic script," blaming the Moro secessionist group whenever the President is in trouble.

Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto, another oppositionist, warned that another war could further hurt the economy.

He also asked Malacañang to clarify where it would get the billions needed to finance another military offensive.

But the militant fisherfolk group, Pamalakaya, refused to believe that the MILF had anything to do with the Dec. 30 bombings. *AFP, with reports from Andrea Trinidad Echavez and Agnes E. Donato*

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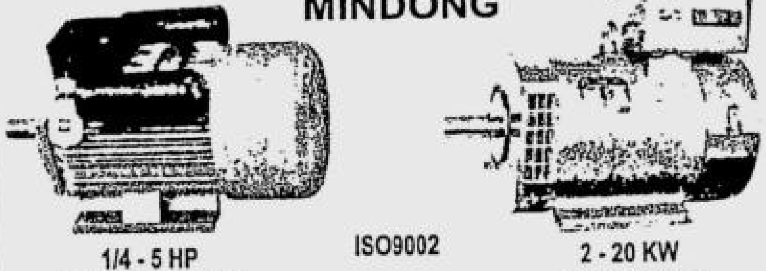

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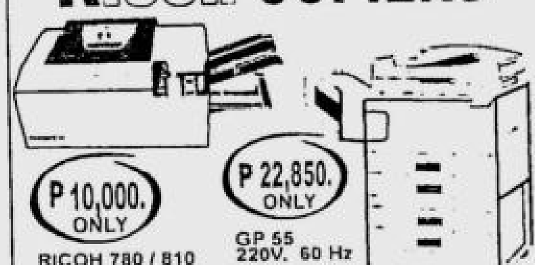

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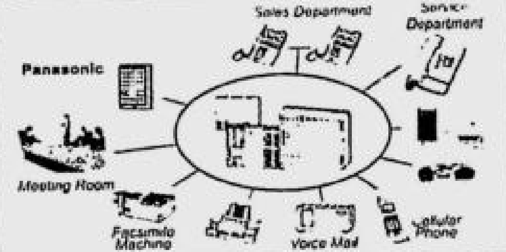

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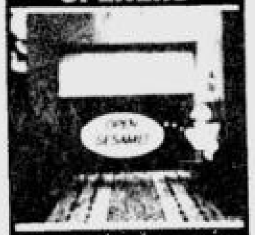

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This is to serve notice that in the decision of the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Br. 90 dated October 22, 1993 in Civil Case No. Q-91-10926 entitled Elidad Kho (doing business under the style KEC Cosmetic Laboratory) and affirmed and modified by the 13th Division of the Hon. Court of Appeals in CA-G.R. CV No. 48043 in its decision promulgated on November 22, 1999 and in its Resolution dated July 12, 2000, the right of Summerville General Merchandising & Co. over the trademark / tradename **Chin Chun Su** as well as over the oval cream container / case has been confirmed and affirmed.

With the final denial of Elidad Kho / KEC Laboratory's petition to the Supreme Court in the latter's Resolution of dated August 28 and November 13, 2000, there is no more dispute on the right of Summerville over the **Chin Chun Su** products and the oval container / case.

The public is therefore, warned against manufacturing or patronizing fake **Chin Chun Su** products because Summerville intends to criminally prosecute to the hilt such violators.

There who may wish to avail of genuine **Chin Chun Su** products may contact undersigned at the address indicated below.

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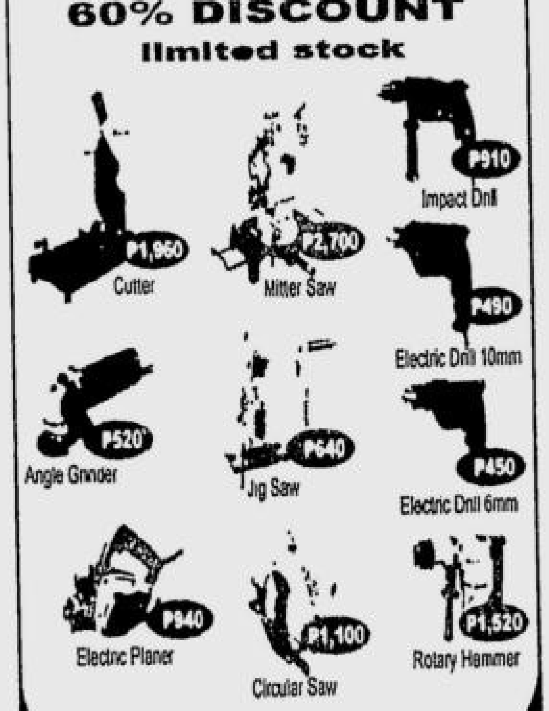

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# Mateo dies of cancer

A CONTROVERSIAL former security agent who had linked national police chief Brig. Gen. Panfilo Lacson to at least nine "passion killings" died Saturday of cancer at a Mandaluyong City hospital.

Francisco "Kit" Mateo, formerly with the notorious Military Intelligence Security Group and later the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, died one month after being pardoned by President Estrada for the kidnapping of a Taiwanese businessman in 1993.

Mateo had linked Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, then head of the PACC's Task Force Lawin, and Chief Supt. Dictador Alqueza, former chief of the Narcotics Group, to kidnapping activities, including that of Jack Chou.

Mateo was convicted of the crime while Berroya and Alqueza were cleared by the Supreme Court.

Mateo was imprisoned at the national penitentiary where he learned he had colon cancer in 1998.

He pleaded with President Estrada to pardon him so he could spend his remaining days with his family.

When his pleas were ignored by Malacañang, he contacted ABS-CBN reporter Ana Marie Fuderanan and gave her an exclusive interview detailing at least nine "passion killings" allegedly ordered by Lacson.

Mateo had asked Fuderanan to air the 45-minute interview after his death, but a clip from the video was shown on the afternoon news program of ABC 5 anyway.

Four days later, Mateo retracted his allegations and blamed personalities opposed to Lacson for having made it.

The day before his retraction, President Estrada signed Mateo's pardon.

Last Saturday he died in the arms of his family at 3 p.m. at the Lourdes Hospital in Mandaluyong.

His remains lie at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Ave., Quezon City. His family has yet to announce burial plans.

Lacson had denied any involvement in the "passion killings," so-called because they reportedly involved persons close to the police chief.

# 3 Moro rebs die in new clashes

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three Muslim rebels were killed in fresh clashes with soldiers in Mindanao hours before President Estrada suspended talks after police accused them of masterminding a wave of deadly bombings in Manila, officials said yesterday.

The military's Southern Command said Moro Islamic Liberation Front forces attacked Saturday a group of government militias in the town of Tubod, Lanao del Sur.

Soldiers were immediately sent to reinforce the militias, triggering an hour-long gun battle that left at least three MILF rebels killed, the military said.

Troops also bombarded with mortars an area controlled by the MILF in the town of Carmen in North Cotabato after the guerrillas harassed security forces. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The fresh hostilities came just hours before President Estrada said he would suspend talks with the MILF after police tagged the group as responsible for a wave of bomb attacks in Manila on Dec. 30 that killed 22 people and wounded nearly 100 others.

"We cannot tolerate this. What they have done is a major blow not only in the lives of people but also in the livelihood of people, in terms of foreign investment, tourists and our economy," Mr. Estrada said on Saturday. *AFP*

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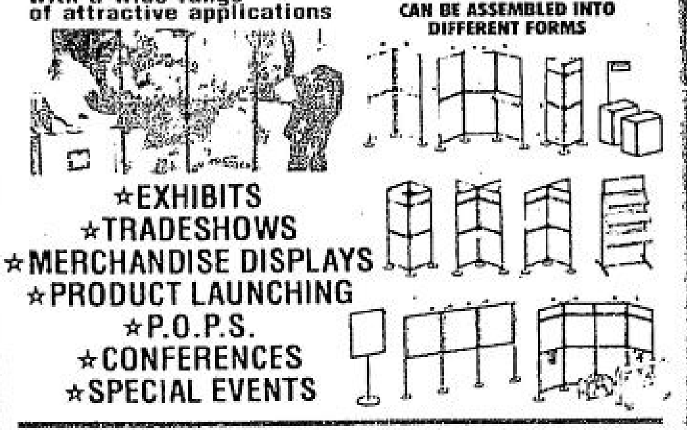

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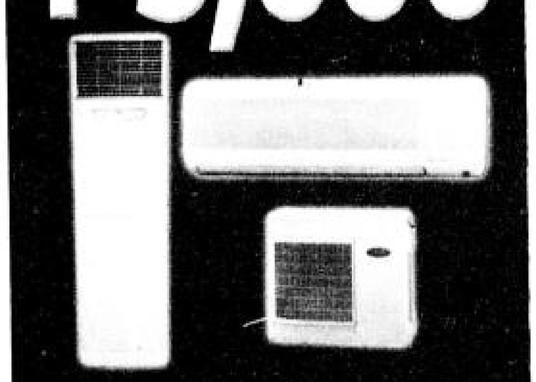

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# 2 widows of model cops united in grief

(From page A1)

Both widows agreed that the dedication of their spouses to their profession far outweighed the high risks.

"The life of a policeman is really dangerous. I should know. More so, since they were assigned to the bomb disposal unit," Diana told the INQUIRER in an interview after her husband's funeral.

"I had expected something to happen to my husband. But it still hurts. It's really difficult to go on raising a family all alone," she said sadly.

She remembered that "there were times when I needed him and he wasn't there. Sometimes, when he needed me, it was I who wasn't there."

Diana recalled that when she was six months pregnant with one of her four children, she bled profusely and had to be rushed to the hospital. Roberto could not be by her side because he was on duty.

Two years ago, it was Roberto's turn to be confined to a hospital bed because of a heart ailment, and Diana's turn to be on duty.

Despite the fears and the pitfalls inherent in their husbands' line of work, both women learned to accept the trials with a steely determination driven by love and devotion.

### Beginnings

Gutierrez, 47, who married Roberto 18 years ago, met her husband in police training at the Philippine National Police Academy.

Diana's father was also a police officer and convinced her and Ofelia, one of her three sisters, to follow in his footsteps.

She recalled how Roberto wooed her with ballads. "He was a great guitarist with a good voice," Gutierrez reminisced. They were married after their graduation.

Like any other married couple, Diana and Roberto had their share of trials, but in general, their marriage was stable. "We had good times and we had bad times. But we stuck together through them."

Zosima and Nestor, both members of the Iglesia ni Cristo, were childhood sweethearts while growing up in Laoag City in Ilocos Norte. Nestor was the son of the INC minister who ministered to Zosima's flock.

Zosima said that every minute of their 26-year marriage was pure bliss.

"He was a loving husband and a good father. We never fought. Our marriage was colorful and fruitful because he was the ideal family man," she related.

### Pride

Both Diana and Zosima are proud that their husbands were the best in the Makati police bomb squad.

Roberto and Nestor both underwent training abroad in bomb disposal techniques. Roberto went to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for training and was tapped to serve with the security force in the 1995 Atlanta Olympics.

Nestor trained at the International Law Enforcement Academe in Bangkok, Thailand.

Zosima recounted that her husband had once fashioned a bomb from scratch while patiently explaining to her the intricacies of explosive devices. Diana has herself become knowledgeable about bombs through Roberto's informal lectures.

Both widows believe that their husbands were the most qualified among their peers to handle the bomb in Makati, even if it meant the loss of their lives.

### Not afraid

The women portrayed Gutierrez and Salvador as models of the ideal policemen in terms of dedication and ethics.

Diana said Roberto was not afraid of any bomb, even as he respected the power of the device. Roberto's colleagues have told the INQUIRER that he was always the first at the scene of a bomb threat.

Zosima said Nestor was well-loved and highly respected in the community. "He was a straight cop who hated corruption and what it has done to the force to which he has given long years of service."

Many of their old neighbors in Ilocos traveled all the way to Makati to pay their respects to "Ka Nestor," she said.

"These were the small people whom he helped when they came to him. He never turned away anyone who came to him. I was touched and that made me cry even more," Zosima said.

### Loss

The heavy loss of their life partners is etched on the faces of the two widows.

Zosima has taken Nestor's death hard, periodically breaking down during the interview. "I guess I'm not as strong as Diana. It has been very difficult," she said.

The funeral was especially heartwrenching for Zosima, who fell apart after the flag was given to her during the ceremony. "I couldn't bear the sight of the soil falling on his coffin," she said in tears. She has had trouble sleeping and eating since the funeral.

But both Diana and Zosima agree that life must go on. Both have become close friends, sharing in their collective loss and united by grief. Both derive strength from friends, family and primarily their children.

And both are of the same belief that nothing, absolutely nothing, can replace their husbands, especially not the money or the benefits that the government has given or has promised.

Instead, much of their consolation lies in the good name and the legacy that their husbands have left them. But their best consolation is that Roberto and Nestor are heroes, in death as much as in life.

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# Gloria gives aid to blast victims

VICE President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday came to the aid of three victims of the Dec. 30 bombing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport cargo area.

Macapagal visited the three—cousins Isabelo and Christopher Comia and Will Magnaye—at the De los Santos Medical Center in Quezon City and handed P20,000 as assistance to another cousin of the victims, Ana Garcia, who had appealed to her for help.

The victims, all of 106 Imperial St., Cubao, Quezon City, are vendors at the nearby Nepa Q-Mart. They were waiting for a package at the airport when a bomb exploded near them.

The men suffered wounds in the neck and abdomen. The bomb was one of five that exploded around Metro Manila early in the afternoon of Dec. 30, killing at least 22 persons.

Macapagal said she would try to visit another victim, Salvador Dizon, whose mother Perpetua appealed for help over the Vice President's radio program.

Dizon lost a leg in the explosion that ripped apart an LRT train at Blumentritt, Manila.

He was the uncle of Crizele Acusin, the 6-year-old whose bloody body was pictured on the front page of the INQUIRER the day after the bombings.

Macapagal condemned the bomb attacks and urged groups calling for the resignation of President Estrada not to be scared off by them.

Twenty suspects, all of them Muslims, were arrested for the bombings but have since been released by the military for lack of evidence.

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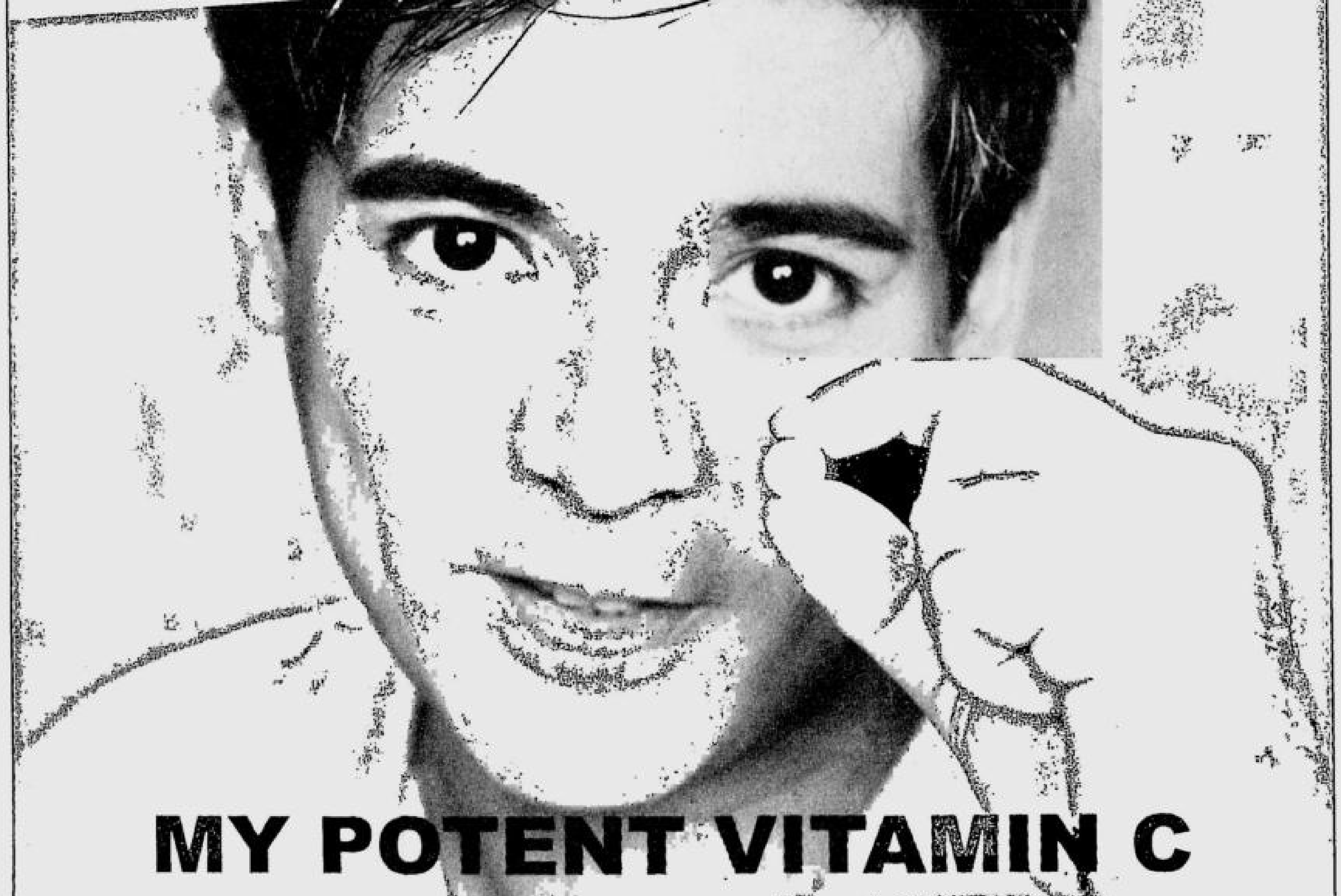

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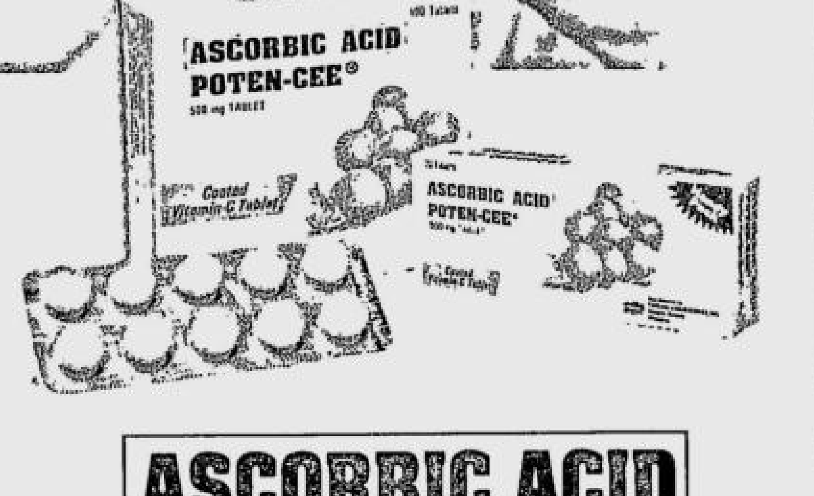

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# Memory of LRT bombing haunts last man sitting

(From page A1)

Rizal Day, blew pellets of glass into Santos' left eye and cut open his knee to the bone.

His fellow passengers, many of whom were looking forward to celebrating the approaching New Year with relatives in northern Manila, were busy talking with their companions on the doomed LRT train, he recalled.

Cellular phones of different models and colors garnished the coach, along with holiday gifts and groceries for *media noche*, Santos said.

Many were sending text messages, and the beeps from the cell phones composed an impromptu, high-tech jingle, he added.

"Everyone was smiling despite the heat. Everybody was happy because Christmas had just ended and New Year was very near," he remembered.

### Remembering Crizele

Santos, who was on his way to visit his grandson in Valenzuela City, remembers bumping into Crizele Acusin, 6, and her brother Laurence and uncle Sixto Dizon, just before the coach was reduced to twisted metal.

Crizele, Santos recalled, was pressed against his thigh in the crush of passengers jostling for space.

Boarding the train at the Baclaran Station, Santos finally got an empty seat when passengers alighted at Tayuman, the station where an unidentified man, according to witnesses, disembarked, leaving his bag behind on the train. The man, witnesses said, shouted "*Bumaba kayo, bababa na ako*" as he left the coach.

The passengers who ignored his advice met tragedy in the next depot.

### Darkness

"The explosion was very loud. It came on the right side of the train. There was darkness afterward and when I opened my eyes, I saw bloodied bodies all over," Santos said in a recent interview.

He saw a young girl with her eyeballs dangling from their sockets. She was Crizele, the young girl whose photo appeared on the front page of the INQUIRER on the next day, New Year's Eve, and whose story came out a few days later.

She died instantly, her face mutilated beyond recognition. In the picture, a rescue worker was carrying her blood-soaked body away from the scene of the bombing.

After the explosion, Santos could barely open his eyes. When he did, he saw the bone of his left knee exposed. He realized others were even unluckier. He never saw Sixto or Laurence again, but he was sure that they were somewhere among the heap of the dead and wounded.

The next thing he knew, he was desperately crying to rescuers to take him to a hospital.

### Appeal for help

Doctors at the Metropolitan Hospital in Masangkay, Manila, operated on Santos' knee the other day. An attending physician said his life is out of danger but added that he remains under close observation.

"I appeal to the government, especially to the LRT management to help me with my hospital expenses. I have no job and I have no money for my treatment," Santos told the INQUIRER.

He has been separated from his wife for many years now. He has been living with a brother in Las Piñas after his Malabon shanty was demolished some few years back. He has tried but has been unable to find a job, and he depends on his relatives for financial support.

"God will judge whoever was responsible for the bombing. May he live with his conscience," he said.

*(Many INQUIRER readers have inquired about sending donations to Crizele's family and to her uncle, Sixto Dizon, who lost his right leg and is now fighting infection. Donations may be sent to the Acusin residence at Phase 3, Block 49, Alupihan St., Longos, Malabon, telephone number 287-8805. Thank you for your compassion.)*

# Special sessions for budget

CONGRESS will try to complete deliberations on the 2001 national budget in five special session days beginning today.

Also on the agenda but which might have to wait until regular sessions resume on Monday, Jan. 15, is the controversial Power Reform Bill that is already at the bicameral conference committee level.

The Senate will be the busier chamber as far as the budget is concerned, after the House approved its final version of the P715-billion General Appropriations Act (GAA) before representatives went on their Christmas break.

The House approved a budget P10 billion lower than Malacañang's original proposal.

The bill remains pending at the Senate committee level mainly because of the impeachment trial of President Estrada in which the senators sit as judges.

More cuts are expected when the GAA undergoes another scrutiny at the Senate, House appropriations committee chair Gilberto Duavit (LAMP, Rizal) had earlier said.

Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, over the weekend, underscored the need for the special sessions, saying the budget deliberations must not be hindered by the current political crisis.

"It is important to pass the 2001 budget which will finance the pro-poor and socio-economic projects that are needed to spur growth, particularly in agriculture and public infrastructure," the House leader said.

Senators will tackle the budget in morning sessions and attend the trial of the President in the afternoon.

Also at the special sessions, the expected release of the bicameral committee report on the Power Reform Bill could launch a new round of arguments by lawmakers and lobby groups who had been warning against the privatization of the National Power Corp. *Volt Contreras*

## Strong quake hits 2 Mindanao provinces

DAVAO CITY—A moderately strong earthquake jolted two southern provinces for the third time in a week, but there were no reports of damage or injuries, officials said yesterday.

The earthquake shook the provinces of Davao Oriental and Surigao del Sur on Saturday and appeared to be an aftershock of a 6.6-magnitude temblor that struck the same area on New Year's Day, the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology said.

Saturday's temblor was centered at sea about 87 kilometers southeast of Davao Oriental's Mati town, according to Vilma Hernandez of the institute.

Government seismologists said the earthquake had a magnitude of 4.7 and was triggered by a movement of the Philippine trench, a fault line running along the country's southeastern Pacific coast.

The Hong Kong Observatory placed the quake's magnitude at 5.6.

Movements in the Philippine trench set off strong earthquakes in Davao and surrounding provinces on Jan. 1 and 2, panicking many people celebrating the new year but causing no injuries or major damage.

The Philippine archipelago sits on at least four major faults and lies in the so-called Pacific "ring of fire," where earthquakes and volcanic activity are common. *AP*

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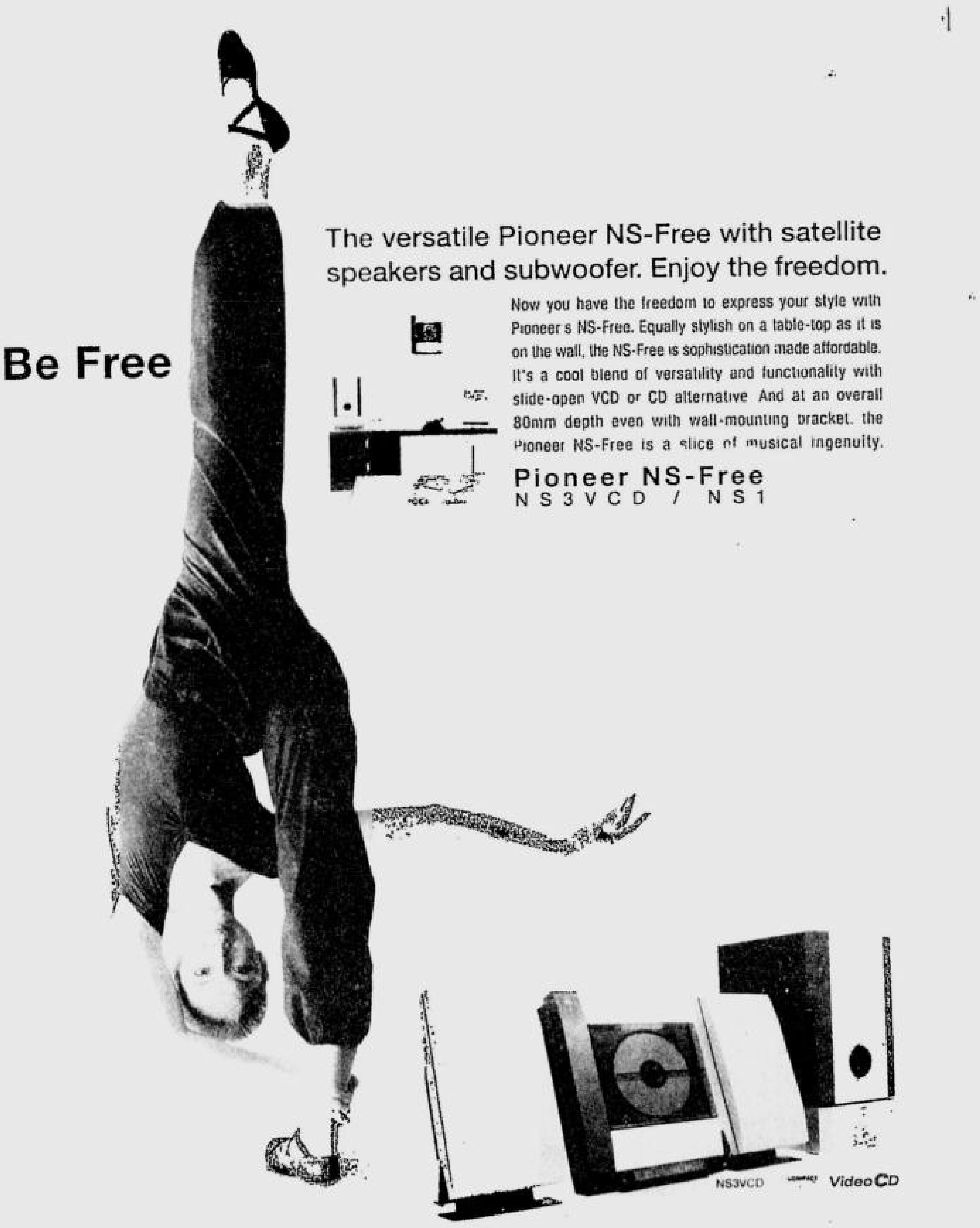

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## Legal gobbledygook

**EDITORIAL**

WHAT does this mean:

"I hereby give and convey to you, all and singular, my estate and interest, right, title, claim and advantages of and in said orange, together with its rind, skin, juice, pulp and pips and all rights and advantages therein and full power to bite, suck or otherwise eat the same or give the same away with or without the rind, skin, juice, pulp and pips, anything hereinbefore or hereinafter or in any other means of whatever nature or kind whatsoever to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding"?

The writer of the above paragraph, obviously a lawyer, only wanted to say: "Have an orange." This is an exaggerated example used in a Labor magazine in England, but it shows you how complicated and long-winded legal jargon, or what is sometimes called "legal gobbledygook," can be.

The term got into the news last week when Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a retired general who values brevity and directness in speech (when you want your soldiers to fire, you just command "Fire!", you don't use 10 words), urged that the discussion veer away from "legal gobbledygook." Senate Majority Floor Leader Francisco Tatad moved that the term be stricken off the record. But after some discussion, Chief Justice Hilario Davide ruled that the term should remain on the record "subject to the objection" made by Tatad.

Senator Biazon is one of many people who find "legal gobbledygook" an obstacle to a clear understanding of what is being discussed in courts, assemblies and other venues where legal language is being used. The Philippine judicial system is patterned after the American system, and thus it adopted a lot of the language being used by the latter.

American lawyer David Melinkoff, author of "The Language of the Law," said the following are the characteristics of this peculiar language: (1) common words with specialized legal meanings (example: "action"—law suit), (2) rare Old and Middle English words ("witnesseth"), (3) Latin words and phrases ("res judicata"), (4) French words ("demurrer"), (5) terms of art ("stare decisis"), (6) professional jargon ("fact of issue"), (7) formal expressions ("comes now the plaintiff"), (8) words with flexible meanings ("obscene"), (9) attempts at extreme precision ("including but not limited to"), (10) wordiness ("annul and set aside"—annul), (11) lack of clarity (just read any tax statute), (12) pomposity (characterizations of contrary opinions and evidence as "absurd" and "mere") and (13) dullness.

The goal of good writing and good speech should be to communicate, not to confuse; to make oneself understood, not to hide behind words. But the way most lawyers write and speak, one would think that their purpose is to baffle and mystify their readers and listeners.

In courtroom proceedings especially, everyone, not the least of them the accused, should understand clearly what is being said. A misunderstanding of one word, one phrase or one sentence could result in a miscarriage of justice. Not too long ago, an accused was sentenced to life imprisonment simply because he did not understand one question that was put to him. The problem is aggravated by the fact that the language of the courts in our country is English which may not be understood by poor and unlettered litigants.

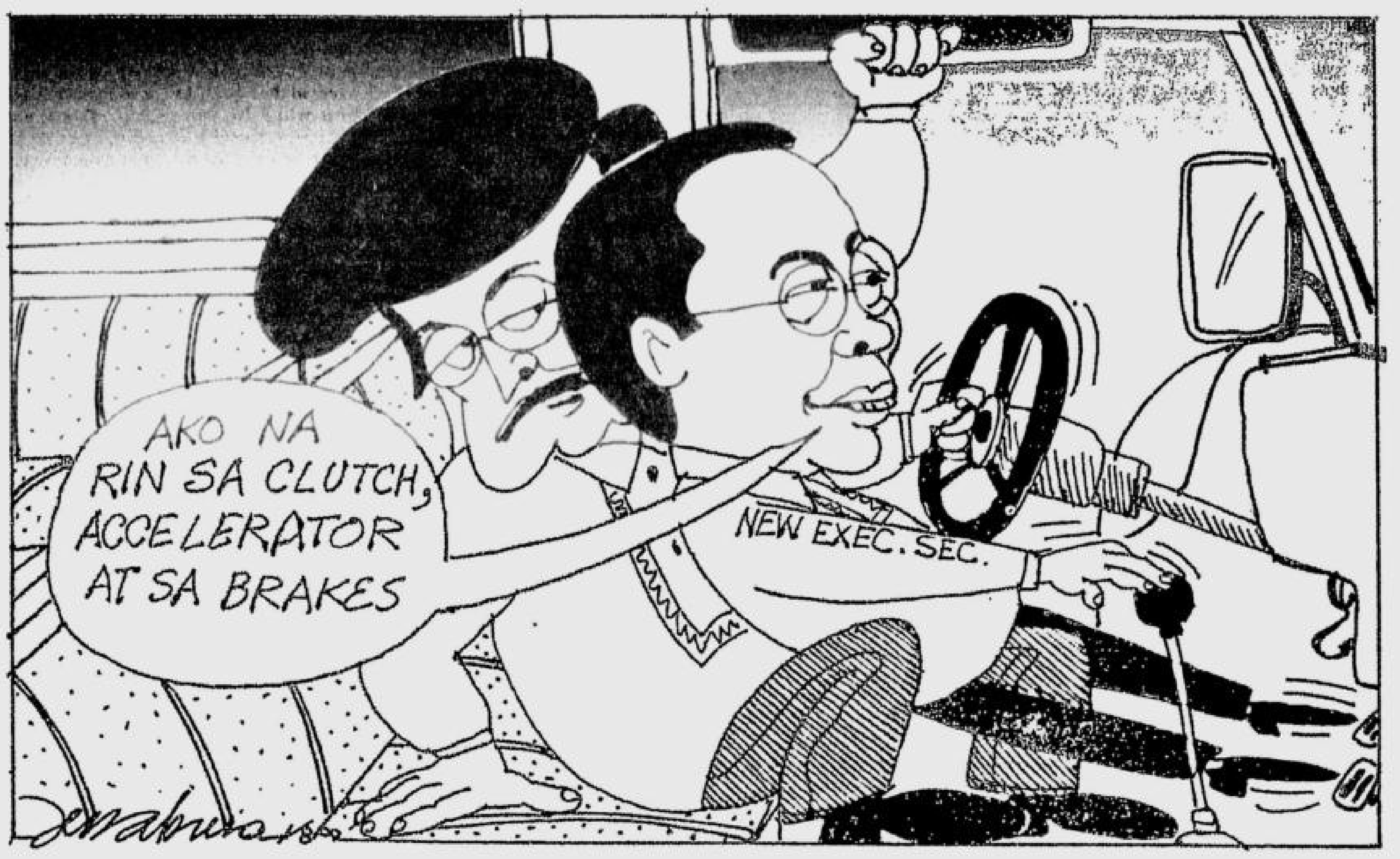
It is ironic that lawyers should have a problem with language because the law has been described as "a profession of words." Philologist Fredrick Philbrick said: "Lawyers are students of language by profession...They exercise their power in court by manipulating the thoughts and opinions of others, whether by making speeches or questioning witnesses."

In the United States, even well-educated speakers of English often find it difficult to understand the language used in court. This problem is even more serious in the Philippines where English is only a second language and where its teaching has deteriorated horribly in the last 20 or 30 years.

About a year or so ago, a Filipino lawyer suggestion the simplification of legal language to make it more understandable, but his proposal did not catch fire. In the United States, reformers said that legal language is unnecessarily complex and should be simplified to make it more intelligible to the public at large and less burdensome to the legal professionals themselves.

The problem is that for lawyers, it is difficult to abandon formulaic expressions. Much of courtroom dialogue is addressed "to the record"—it is so worded with the idea of an appeal to a higher court in mind. And legal documents are written according to standard form books because they ensure a greater predictability of how the courts will interpret such documents.

But we do hope that a way could be found to make the language of the law more intelligible to the ordinary layman. The law affects every aspect of his life every day. It should be written and talked about in plain, familiar language so that everyone will understand it.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## Why impeachment trial is slow and tedious

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

THE TELEVISED impeachment trial of President Estrada is now the highest rating TV show in the Philippines and it is with relief that we note that the networks have resisted the temptation to load it with too many commercials as they do with important boxing bouts. On the contrary, the networks have preempted regular shows in the 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. time slot to give way to the impeachment trial.

But now that millions of Filipinos here and abroad are glued to their TV sets and websites for the trial, many laymen are perplexed by the slow and tedious progress of the trial. Many are not only confused but are also infuriated by the technicalities that hinder fairness and the search for truth. I have been asked many times why Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. allows the defense panel to get away with what are obviously attempts to hide the truth through technicalities. Not being a lawyer, I passed on the questions to a brilliant lawyer—former Senate President Jovito Salonga. He faxed me a very informative answer. Here it is:

The root of the problem (Salonga said) is that while the impeachment trial involves the whole nation—not just President Estrada or his political opponents—many of the procedural rules we have borrowed from the Anglo-American system a century ago are adversarial in nature. As a result, the presentation of evidence is highly partisan and many cases are decided on the basis of the skill of the contending lawyers, not on the merits of each case.

Thus, impeachment, under the adversary system of procedure, is comparable to a civil action for separation by one spouse against the other, or a criminal case for theft filed by the owner of a firm against his trusted employee. If the two parties do not call a particular person as witness, the latter's version will never be known publicly. (Certain key personalities—such as Jaime Dichaves, George L. Go, Edward Serapio, Atong Ang and many others—have been mentioned by prosecution witnesses in the course of the trial but they have not been called to testify. The reason is the fear of the contending lawyers about what they might say. In such places as France and the Scandinavian countries, the court would have called them right away on its own initiative. But not here.) Similarly, if both prosecution and the defense do not call Go and Serapio to testify, the general public will never know the whole truth about the nature and extent of their participation in the alleged acts of graft and corruption committed by President Estrada.

It may surprise many of my fellow lawyers (this is Senator Salonga still speaking) but this is the main defect of the adversary system of procedure, as applied to cases of great public interest. In the United States, there is a mounting demand to change or nullify the adversarial process in public cases. In our case, technical rules of evidence for private litigants are the same rules of evidence now being applied in the impeachment trial. Our people are right to complain about technicalities that do not serve the cause of truth, fairness, transparency and accountability--the end which the Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Davide, seeks to achieve, even as the Court prepares for its centennial celebration on June 11, 2001.

Why, for example, should not the Senate take the liberty of calling witnesses both parties are apparently trying to avoid for fear they might tell the whole truth? Why the quibbling over whether a person is an "adverse" or "hostile" witness?

Roughly 90 percent of the world's legal systems adopt the non-adversarial procedure which is observed in Continental Europe. In the non-adversarial system, the lawyers play a lesser role. Judges call and question witnesses, and choose the order of calling them. The allegiance of every judge is to the demands of truth and fairness, not adherence to rigid rules. His questions range wider than those permitted in adversary trials. He may order the production of additional documentary evidence or call witnesses not presented by the parties. A witness who testifies is given a wide latitude to give a narrative account in his own words, following which the judge may then ask questions. Lawyers may be allowed to ask questions or submit a list of questions to the judge.

There is still time to reexamine our slavish adherence to rules of evidence that were not originally designed to apply to impeachment proceedings. Perhaps this is why the Rules of Court adopted by the Senate provide, in Art. VI, that "Rules of evidence and procedures shall be liberally construed."

The Senate may do well to conduct its impeachment trial almost in the same manner it conducts its committee investigations, except that in an impeachment trial, the senators acting as judges are under the leadership and guidance of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as presiding officer, in the interest of orderly procedure and conformably with the mandate of the Constitution.

***

**TODAY'S Erap joke:**

**Good news: With the appointment of Edgardo Angara as executive secretary, Joseph Estrada will next step down as President.**

**Bad news: He will be replaced by Jose Velarde.**

***

*Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph*

## Remarkable

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago could not get back at Sen. Raul Roco, so she got back at three members of the gallery. It's the classic bully syndrome.

But that was brilliant the way Roco made short shrift of Santiago's revealing suggestion that the natural career path for lawyers—or any professional for that matter—is to choose a high-paying job over a low-paying one whatever the cost. She would be livid—never has the phrase "fit to be tied" been more apt—and complain later that Roco breached ethics by taking issue with a fellow senator-judge. How so? Santiago's statements did not just apply to the witness, it applied to all lawyers, of which Roco was one. Why shouldn't he feel referred to? Why shouldn't any self-respecting lawyer feel bitterly arraigned by being portrayed as naturally venal and unscrupulous?

By eliciting answers from Ma. Jasmin Banal–pray, how does that breach ethics, asking questions from a witness rather than declaiming like a martinet to the gallery (I will never say again like a high school declamation contestant)—Roco showed that there were still lawyers who believed that law was a noble profession and not a mercenary activity. Ah, but Banal is another one of the growing tribe of courageous and principled women we can truly be proud of. If someone from the media had suggested in a forum that journalists who opt to be honest, or who chose principle over gain, could not possibly be believed, I'd have stood up and said the same thing. Speak for yourself, don't speak for the profession I'm proud to be part of.

In fact, Roco did not just refute Santiago's argument, he refuted her existence. Banal was not the aberration, she was. Banal was not unbelievable, she was. Not every lawyer sniffed around like a dog around a garbage pile for leavings no matter how powerful the stench. Not every lawyer clung to largesse and privilege however she paid for it with her soul. Not every lawyer used all the talent God gave her to make the crooked straight, the lawless lofty, wrongdoing the sway of reason.

Santiago had every reason to be pissed off at Roco—and so got back at the gallery. It is also classic Miriamic logic. Which lies at the heart of the matter. In the end, do you really need anybody to refute Miriam Santiago? She is the living, breathing, refutation of every legal principle her mouth has had cause to disgorge at the trial. No, more than refutation, she is a living, breathing parody of all that law and lawyers stand for.

She would (de)claim at the height of her fury that if Dante Jimenez, Bettina Aboitiz and Rosanna Tuason-Fores thought they could be above the law and break the rules of court with impunity, they were wrong. But who really thought she could be above the law and break it with impunity? Who thought that three people could be presumed guilty just because she said so? Who thought the truth was naturally what her muddled vision and inflamed brain deemed it to be? Who thought she had the right to decree that the world conform to her warped sense of decorum and respect for the court?

But while at that, what a pathetic and cowardly crew of men and women the other senators turned out to be! Why they allowed Santiago to cow them in that way, only they can say. I've always thought there were better ways to deal with people having a fit other than humoring them. A straitjacket has been known to help.

Santiago would say that was not the first time the dignity of the court had been violated, that was not the first time people had given the court provocation. But who has really been wrecking the dignity of the court and provoking it in every way? She should really consult a mirror to see how she looks and talks—though I won't blame her if she doesn't. How did she begin her interrogation of Clarissa Ocampo? With a derisive "Is Mr. Estrada your classmate?" The point apparently being that so lofty a man as President Estrada would never deign to counterfeit his identity before so lowly a woman as Ocampo. *Kaya nga tinawag na tanga.* Which Equitable lawyer, Manuel Curato, soon enough confirmed.

And how did Santiago end her interrogation of Banal? Another derisive "Remarkable." Well, Roco has already shown the world how truly remarkable Banal is and how truly unremarkable her interrogator is. But I am surprised Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. does not advise Santiago every time she opens her mouth to show some respect for the witnesses. You cannot show respect for others, do not expect others to show respect for you. She should be thankful the gallery does not inflict her Visayan-American accent back on her. That is a monumental provocation unto itself. My apologies to Visayans and Americans.

Santiago says that as lawyer she is trained to look only at facts and to test the credibility of stories at all times. Yet who made the fanciful suggestion to Ocampo, who talked only of what she saw and heard, that Joseph Estrada's, aka Jose Velarde's, half a billion pesos consisted of campaign donations? Who made the fanciful suggestion that the natural course of Philippine politics is for politicians to make and accept illegal contributions, falsify documents, and lie about their identities? The wonder was that no politician rose to say that politics was a noble profession, however some politicians insisted on dragging it to the gutter, and not the natural turf of gangsters and their *consigliere*.

Who made the fanciful suggestion that the people protesting her antics were leftist-extremist-radicals who were conspiring to topple government and take over the country? She mentioned Sakbayan: There is no such group. There are only Sanlakas and Akbayan. But these are facts, which are not her strongest suit. A day before, her idol had also suggested the Makati businessmen were conspiring to topple government and take over the country. Remarkable. They are a match made in—choose its otherworldly provenance.

Santiago would (de)claim at the beginning of last Friday's session that the reason she has been stern is that she wants to see reason rather than coercion hold sway in the trial. Well, who has been acting like a Brenda all this time, bullying witnesses and spectators, substituting speculation for fact, throwing fits and turning the trial into an absolute circus? My sincerest apologies to the Brendas and circus clowns of this world.

Thank God I answer to another—and higher—court, which is the court of public opinion, a court no one can tyrannize, a court where people are free to look around posts that block their view, a court where people are free to answer anyone whenever and however they please.

But, Your Honor, Madame Senator, feel free to cite me for contempt. I myself can only find you beneath it.

***

*Conrad de Quiros' correct e-mail address is dequiros@[illegible]*

# Atong Ang's towering role

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

CENTRAL to the pieces of evidence being unfolded by the prosecution in the Senate trial is the toweringly prominent role that Charlie "Atong" Ang has played for President Estrada. For instance, prosecutor Roan Libarios has shown in the case of the Fontainbleau casino owned by President Estrada and its takeover of the Fontana resort in Clark, that Ang was the one calling the shots in everything, including negotiations with fired Clark Chief Rufo Colayco for the percentage of take.

During the presentation of evidence on the Bingo-2 Balls game introduced by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., the senators were able to elicit several facts that clearly showed Ang's role. Sen. Serge Osmeña elicited an admission from Pagcor official Emily Padua that it was Ang's firm, not Pagcor, that prepared the feasibility study of this legalized form of *jueteng*; Sen. Tito Guingona, once Commission on Audit chief in the Aquino administration, drew out an admission that there was no bidding in the hiring of Ang's firm as the game's consultant and collector, and that COA rules were totally disregarded in giving out franchises; Guingona further elicited from Padua the admission that the proceeds collected by Ang's firm, which are public funds, were deposited in his private account. Sen. Rene Cayetano drew out the admission that Pagcor relied on the network of *jueteng* collectors nationwide, who were mainly people of Ang.

* * *

**In the case of the P130 million in Ilocos Sur excise taxes on tobacco that Chavit Singson had alleged as having gone to President Estrada, the prosecution brought out the fact that Ang's employees, three young people with ages 21 to 23, were able to open bank accounts on the strength of mere student IDs and deposits of P1,000, and how those accounts became the depository of the P130 million that later reportedly went to Estrada.**

**All these testimony tied in neatly with the allegations made by Singson about Ang's role in the empire of President Estrada, backed up by an elaborate paper trail. Only the blind among the senators would choose to ignore the evidence.**

* * *

Before Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara accepted the post of executive secretary, he was said to have laid down certain "conditions" which presumably referred to certain reforms he wanted to install in the Palace. Reports also said that very soon, President Estrada will be issuing an executive order granting Angara far more vast powers than anyone who has ever occupied that post. Thus, Angara becomes the most powerful man in the country, second only to the President himself. Not only that, given the current preoccupation of Estrada with his impeachment trial and the fact that he has become frightfully damaged by all the accusations, Angara will end up really and truly running the government. As a newspaper put it, the joke, in fact, in the Palace is that now, finally, Angara has realized his dream of becoming President, although unelected. In reality he will emerge as de facto prime minister as he will run the day-to-day affairs of state.

* * *

**Given Angara's organizational talent and ability to tap a vast pool of human resources, the directionless Estrada administration can only improve. The question is, why did Angara accept this post at this time, when the President could well be convicted? There was a time when everyone thought that he would resign, together with his longtime colleague, then Senate President Frank Drilon. Drilon quit but Angara not only stayed on, he has gotten into the snake pit itself as executive secretary. To many, Angara's act may recall what Haydee Yorac said of another official who accepted a Cabinet post despite the first wave of resignations following Singson's exposé last October: that that official is "the only rat swimming toward a sinking ship."**

* * *

The vast powers to be accorded the new executive secretary by the EO will be looked upon as a reward for his loyalty and that of the LDP he heads. I can only think of his motivation as loyalty, for at this point Estrada needs Angara far more than Angara needs him; the latter could really just retire, as he has been saying he wants to do. If he does well in the new post, it could also be a redemption for him for his "sins" during the martial law regime, when his Accra law office was regarded as the regime's virtual legal arm, servicing the Marcos cronies.

Despite the bad timing, best wishes to Ed Angara.

* * *

**Media reports say Ambassador Ernesto Maceda was sulking at the Palace swearing in of Angara, as he had hoped to get the agriculture portfolio. But Angara's handpicked man, Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, a career guy, got it instead. At this point there is nothing clear as to what post Maceda will get; his limbo status has miffed him, so much so that he has indicated that he will not stay on as impeachment spokesperson. It is evident that Angara cannot see himself working with Maceda as he doesn't trust the guy, not after all the maneuvers in the Senate engineered by Maceda against him when he was Senate president. Maceda's tragedy is that he has built up such a reputation for being machiavellian that few can work with him.**

**Another official who appears left out in the Palace revamp is former Deputy Secretary Ramon Cardenas, who lost his job to longtimer Luis Liwanag. But my info is that Cardenas will assume the job of trade secretary vacated by Mar Roxas.**

* * *

Many of us in the media have lamented the failure of the Senate trial court to hear the side of the three spectators who were summarily thrown out of the Senate premises for the trial's duration, after Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago accused them of having cast "provocative" glances at her and misbehaved. It turns out that Dante Jimenez, Bettina Aboitiz and Rosanna Fores did not stand up as Santiago had accused, but merely leaned forward in their seats to get a better view of her reaction as Sen. Raul Roco expounded on the lawyers' "idealism," viewed as a direct rebuttal of Santiago. The Senate, in an effort to placate a Miriam *na nagwawala sa* caucus, expelled the spectators without verifying their crime—a clear violation of their constitutional rights.

By the way, the three spectators are definitely not apologizing, contrary to speculation, inasmuch as they feel they have not done anything wrong.

* * *

**Now comes the Supreme Court's decision to restrain citizens from conducting demonstrations in front of Santiago's house. The high court has upheld her lawsuit against Akbayan and its restraining decision is deemed applicable as well to other senators who may be "victimized" by demonstrations. I believe this is a sad day for the constitutional rights of citizens to peaceful assembly. The senators have the constitutional duty to sit as judges in an impeachment trial, and public pressure comes with this duty; it is very much a part of the turf, just as their innumerable perks are. To insulate them from citizens' pressures at the cost of the latter's constitutional right to peaceful assembly is a chilling foreboding of a certain drift of the Supreme Court that is disturbing.**

---

# Baaaadd script

**LETTER FROM MINDANAO**

*Carolyn O. Arguillas*

"HELP me realize my goal to make Mindanao the country's food basket, Erap exhorts AFP,"—headline of a Malacañang press statement last Saturday. Uhh-oh.

The last time Erap exhorted the Armed Forces to help him transform Mindanao into the country's food basket, Mindanao almost became a basket case, no thanks to his war policy.

Millions (billions?) of pesos that would have been best spent on basic services, were spent on bombs and bullets and other war materiel. Hundreds of lives were lost. Thousands displaced. Investors shied away.

"Recognizing its vital role not only in peacekeeping but also in economic development," Erap "reminded the AFP that it will continue to play a critical role in the development of the nation, most notably in the area of maintaining national security to ensure unhampered economic growth." (I wonder why the choice of "reminded" and "it will." I hope I'm not being as paranoid as some top officials are these days.)

The AFP, he said, helped him "take one step further" in achieving his administration's goal of economic development "by neutralizing" the threats posed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf. "*Ipinakita ninyo di lamang ang inyong katapatan sa bayan kundi pati na rin ang inyong katapangan laban sa mga kaaway ng bansa*," he said, adding, "it was a great sacrifice with a great cost, but one that fully demonstrates our undivided stance and decisive action."

He said military operations the past four months have "diminished" threats posed by the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf. "I urge you, therefore, to keep up the good work and continue to do your share to find a just and lasting solution to the problem in Mindanao," he said.

Ahhh. If the operations did diminish threats, why is the MILF suddenly in the news again, as the bombers of Metro Manila? *Akala ko ba* "neutralized" *na*? And why is his administration provoking the Moro people again through mass arrests?

In another "praise release" on the same day, the President "indicated....he may order the lifting of the moratorium on the arrest" of MILF leaders after the police linked them to the Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila.

The Philippine Star's headline yesterday screamed, "Erap renews war with MILF," while Malaya's headline was "Lacson is 100 percent sure 'twas MILF." *Akala ko ba* "neutralized" *na*, according to Erap himself?

"Anyway it (peace talks) has not started, so there will be ongoing operations against the MILF. *Sa ngayon tuloy-tuloy ang* military operation against all these people (did it ever stop?). We cannot tolerate this *Di tayo papayag mangyari ito, malaking disgrasya ito di lang sa buhay ng tao pati sa kabuhayan ng tao*," he said.

"*Di tayo papayag mangyari ito*," he said.

*Eh bakit pinayagan ng mga tao niya*?

What, pray tell, did the PNP do to stop the culprits from exploding the bombs, a plot reportedly contained in a document "recovered from the MILF in Camp Bushra" on Nov. 25?

*Teka lang*....did not Bushra, of that bombed-out mosque with soldiers waving the Philippine flag, fall into government hands in late May? Weren't government forces stationed in Bushra since?

But let us follow the badly written script. Let us assume the documents were, indeed, from the MILF and were, indeed, recovered Nov. 25.

Lacson said the document "contained a feasibility report" (huh?) "on a bombing operation in Metro Manila in December, and even suggested a budget of P750,000"; that it "detailed the use of cellular phones and vehicles." Cell phones, he said, were used as remote devices to detonate the bombs.

Lacson also said they identified the suspects "after the Army intelligence unit conducted surveillance on the drivers of the MILF vehicle. '*Yan ang* physical evidence or operational lapses on their part *na nakapagturo sa kanila*, on top of other pieces of physical evidence." He said they are "100-percent" sure the MILF was behind the bombing." What did they do between Nov. 25 and Dec. 30 to avert the bombings?

*Teka lang* again. .Two days before the bombs went off, Chief Supt. Romulo Sales, PNP intelligence chief, presented to the media in Manila Alsheed Alling Albani, reportedly a member of the Abu Sayyaf's "central committee," and Hector Janjalani, brother of slain Abu Sayyaf founder Abubakar Abdurajak and Khadaffy, the leader who took over. "Their arrest," said Sales, "preempted a hideous terror plot to be carried out in the metropolis at the height of the Christmas season."

What, they went for the Abu Sayyaf when they knew as early as Nov. 25 that the MILF would bomb Metro Manila? What did they do for 35 days to "preempt" the MILF's "bombing operation?" What a badly written script. Fit for the waste basket.

Now back to the "food basket." A recipient of a Christmas card from former Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara asked me how much the card-cum-desk calendar costs.

I wouldn't know. The price depends on how many copies are made. Sources at the Department of Agriculture here said a van-load of cards arrived here for distribution. The card's front shows a line shot of smiling children, the central figure holding a pot full of rice and strips of fried egg (?) and the message, "*Ang ating kinabukasan...karapat-dapat silang bigyan ng isang magandang pagkakataon.*" Opening the card, the message reads: "*Ngayong Pasko'y sundin natin ang Kanyang halimbawa: Paglingkuran ang mga api at dukha/Magsasaka, mangingisda, at mga maralita/ Upang makamit nila ang bukas na tunay na payapa, maunlad at masagana.*" Its back, the 2001 calendar, with a fourth of the page devoted to a photo of Angara with a lei, smiling while clutching a bunch of rice stalks.

Whew! How much taxpayers' money did the agriculture department shell out for these calendars when its municipal field officers are still waiting for long overdue allowances; when farmers in war-ravaged areas are still waiting for Angara's promises of more rice and corn seedlings, vegetable seeds, cows and carabaos, bancas, irrigation canals and dams, etc..?

Will the new agriculture secretary, Domingo Panganiban, have new calendars printed with his face on, considering that Angara's stay as secretary for 2001 was good only for the first six days of the year? Ahhh...

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# Folly of the talk rule, obloquy for Miriam

**COMMENTARY**

*Dean Jorge Bocobo*

RULES of the impeachment trial may strike some as merely odd formalities, but the two-minute talk rule, whereby the senator-judges are allowed to propound verbal questions to witnesses, could have substantial impact on the outcome and after. Recall that this is one glaring difference between our rules and those of the United States, where senators must course questions through their presiding Chief Justice. Hilario Davide Jr. could have saved Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago from the cauldron of scorn and obloquy she now fries in, if the Senate had not adopted this misbegotten innovation which she has misused.

But it has a more important effect. A lawyer-friend in the United States informs me that it is to preserve the court itself from the repercussions of inept, improper or ill-advised questions that senator-judges there cannot directly interrogate witnesses. Here, the folly of the talk-rule is staring us all in the face. Since most of our senator-judges have revealed their likely verdict, many people believe they have already prejudged the case before all the testimony and evidence is in. That invites public distrust and derision for the very process whose integrity and impartiality are needed to save this nation from tumult and chaos in the post-trial period. Whether Erap is convicted or acquitted, we are now in grave peril of a hopelessly divided nation where as many cannot accept the fairness of the verdict as laud it.

On both sides of the Erap divide, many think the talk rule is okay because the senators with whom they agree, get a chance to act as advocates for their own point of view. For example, some senators have insinuated Ernesto Maceda's line that some witnesses are in conspiracy with the opposition. Meanwhile, other senators have often saved the rusty prosecution. But I doubt that either side can convince the other. We may be digging a grave for blind justice by allowing so much wagging of tongues and clashing egos. Written questions, filtered by the Chief Justice, ought to suffice in eliciting clarification or even amplification.

The talk rule has allowed many senators to shirk the true spirit of jury duty, with which our nation is so unfamiliar, and to reincarnate the ancient arrogance of Roman judges as Filipino grandstanding. Our impeachment trial is thereby tragically flawed by distracting senators from the opportunity for Shakespearean self-discovery during soliloquy, that quiet but redeeming conversation with conscience and truth.

The case of Santiago is instructive. For browbeating witness lawyer Jasmin Banal last week with her suggestion that UP Law School graduates are motivated primarily by monetary self-interest in their career path, she deserves the rotten eggs being heaped upon her by the public. I am sure many lawyers would rather tear up their diplomas than accept her hideous statements virtually accusing them of mammon-worship. Yet, she and Erap could have the last laugh.

Sen. Raul Roco was right to engage her in colloquy, even if that breaks the rules of the impeachment trial. There are imperatives that stand even above those rules, which are honor, decency and professional pride. Rather than accept the chastisement she had coming, Santiago flipped her wig and bullied three hapless spectators of the trial. Clearly, her crass display of childish pique masquerading as senatorial indignation was a diversionary tactic to deflect attention from Roco's tenderly damaging questions which skewered Santiago with her own maladroitness. She besmirched the dignity of the court. She proved herself unworthy of the personal and collective privileges she claimed, which belong not to the senator-judges themselves, but to the high offices they occupy. Can you imagine if she'd won the presidency in 1992?

One thing is sure. Santiago ought not represent the Philippines in any international court or venue. That ambition is said to be one reason for her apparent sycophancy toward Erap. I shudder at the thought of her standing before the whole world and putting on a performance like she did last week. It would destroy the reputation of Filipinos everywhere. Even if we are craven and corrupt here in our own land, our countrymen abroad in their millions have shown our capacity for industry, competence and morality. We should not unleash such a distempered and tempestuous legal boll-weevil as Santiago into the orchards of their arduous but fruitful labors.

I must also register a complaint of familial affront. Jorge Bocobo, in whose reflected glory I am privileged to bask, (through no merit of my own except being gifted at birth with his name), died in 1965 with this message to his progeny: "I leave you all, not material wealth, but the burden of a good name and an honest reputation." As the first Filipino dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law (1917-34) and a former President of UP (1934-39), Lolo Jorge believed firmly in the quotation of Holmes, engraved in marble there and cited by Roco, that the business of a law school is "to teach law in the grand manner and to make great lawyers."

Therefore, it is with a profound sense of outrage that our entire family sends Santiago this message. We join the rest of civil society, in asking from you, Madame, a public apology to all the thousands of graduates of the UP College of Law, and all other law schools, who try to ennoble the legal profession. Forget yourself. Forgive the cruelties of fate. In Erap's trial, find the truth about the charges of ill-gotten and unexplained wealth.

There is this joke in my family, that Lolo's one crime was that of unexplained poverty. But he may also have failed to fulfill Holmes' expectation of making great lawyers in at least one case. That failure's name is Santiago. Makeup class at 2 p.m.

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# Bloody front-page photo

**READERS' ADVOCATE**

*Raul J. Palabrica*

THE FRONT-PAGE photo of the INQUIRER's Dec. 31 issue, which showed the blood-stained body of 6-year-old Crizele Acusin, drew strong, adverse reactions from the readers.

The biggest number, so far. And surprisingly, unlike in other controversial photos, no one wrote to express a contrary opinion.

Some of my friends and relatives even roused me up during the holiday to vent their outrage on me for "ruining their Sunday with that ghastly and horrible photo."

I am reproducing below some of the letters.

Gerry Qua wrote: "The front page of your Dec. 31, 2000 issue was done in very, very poor taste. I have always patronized and looked up to your paper until today. Capitalizing on this tragedy by using the grotesque photo downgrades you to the level of any other tabloid.

"Due respect should be given to the victims of this tragedy. Please be reminded that a big part of your readership is comprised of the youth. Such young minds shouldn't be bombarded with unnecessary violence...even my nieces and nephews (only 4 years old and above) who saw the graphic photo were traumatized."

Jomar Lacson found the choice of the front-page photo "extremely deplorable." He commented that "although the situation was indeed grave, the photo of the bloodied girl being carried away from the bomb site was not necessary."

"Of the hundreds of photos taken of the bombings, why was this particular one chosen? If I were the kid in the picture, I would probably be depressed with how pathetic life in the Philippines is because you can die twice: the first time from a bomb blast and the second time from being the bloody subject of the widest read national daily newspaper."

## Motive

A very agitated Rogelio Tagos expressed his thoughts in Filipino along these lines: "*Kung noong araw ay tinatakpan natin ng diyaryo ang isang namatay sa krimen upang hindi mapagpyestahan ng mga buwitre ng lipunan, bakit tila yata ngayon ang mga pahayagan na ang siyang buwitre na hayok na hayok sa laman ng isang patay?*

"*Kung ang motibo ninyo naman ay maipakita sa mga walanghiya na siyang may kagagawan ng krimen na ito, bakit, sa palagay nyo ba ay maaawa sila? Sa palagay ko ay hindi sapagka't mga demonyo ang mga iyan, mga walang pakiramdam bagkus hahalakhak pa sila dahil natupad nila ang kanilang mga plano* (If before we covered with newspaper a person who died from a criminal act so the vultures of our society would not exploit the scene, why is it now it's the newspapers who are like the vultures who are hungry for the flesh of the dead? If your motive is to show it to the shameless people responsible for the crime, do you think they will take pity on her? I don't think so. Because they are demons who do not have any feelings of remorse but are probably gloating because they accomplished their goal)."

Gene Tamesis surmised that the INQUIRER published the photo "to make people realize how terrible the terrorist act was. "But," he wrote, "personally, I think people already realized how terrible it was without (1) having to see someone's poor mangled child plastered on every newspaper stand; (2) without thinking what the parents of this child must have gone through seeing their child in that horrible state; or (3) without having to doubt whether the paper was on an information crusade or simply desperate to sell more papers."

## Referral

I called the attention of the editorial staff to the complaints. In turn, some of them shared with me the concern their children and friends expressed upon seeing the picture.

They were horrified by the half-page photo of the mangled body of Crizele during a season dedicated to the promotion of peace and harmony among men. Couldn't the message sought to be conveyed have been relayed with similar impact by a less gory photo?

Another editor felt the photo was used precisely to shock the readers into recognizing the horrors of the terroristic acts committed by whoever planted and detonated the bombs. Murder is the worst crime that man can commit against his fellow men and it is only just that the people be awakened to the danger that those murderers pose to our society.

In my opinion, the photo in question was inappropriate. There are limits to what a newspaper can do to make the public more conscious about the things happening around them. Public opinion can be aroused without hurting the sensibilities of our people.

Surely, the photographers have other pictures that can show the gravity of the situation without having to make the readers lose their appetite or ruin the rest of their day.

Instead of making the readers sit up and learn more about the details of the bombings, the opposite effect may have been achieved by the publication. The readers who felt violated by the picture simply skipped the front page and its continuation elsewhere and focused on the less stressful sections of the newspaper.

I brought to the attention of the editor in chief the letters of the readers. She was not surprised by the reaction because some of her friends had earlier expressed to her their reservations about the propriety of using that photo.

Aware of the controversy caused by the picture, she informed me that an editorial will explain the reasons why she chose the front-page publication of the photo showing Crizele's mangled body.

I invite the readers to react to the editor in chief's explanation. Your comments and observations will guide the editorial staff on what action to take in case a similar situation (we hope, it does not happen) arises in the future.

* * *

*The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.*

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**THEY SAID**

## Danger

"If you are saying that the trial of Erap involves security of the state, then we are all in grave danger. I don't think you can compel the reporters at this time to reveal their sources because I don't see national security interest when you are impeaching the President."

***—Sen. Renato Cayetano, responding to PNP Director General Ping Lacson's remark that the INQUIRER story on wiretapping involved national security concerns***

## Insinuation of bribery

"I have never in my life been a party to bribery —giving or receiving, direct or indirect. I never have and I never will. I therefore, cannot allow this insinuation to remain in the journals of the Senate unchallenged."

***—Sen. Loren Legarda, reacting to Sen. John Osmeña's insinuation that INQUIRER reporter Christine Herrera's story was influenced by personal relationships***

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# Advice to GMA

DON'T get me wrong—I like the lady Vice President. She is an economist, an ambassador, a public servant and a descendant of a truly noble statesman.

I helped Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo get elected as second in line to the President of the Republic of the Philippines. I always thought she'd make a good officer in charge if and when the need arises. Until now GMA, as she is fondly called, is supporting the National Oil Exchange Commission proposed by some logistically delusional congressmen.

I bet she has gotten the penny-pinching public's attention. By supporting a figment of certain corporations' multimillion-peso dream scenario, she thinks she will get the rapt attention and support of the masses. She's definitely got my attention—how can she support the Oil Exchange when such a setup cannot support the oil requirements of the country?

GMA is aware of preceding laws that the Oil Exchange violates such as the Deregulation Law. She knows that there is no other country that does this and will be an expensive experiment. I am certain GMA knows the Philippines does not have P20 billion to set up the Oil Exchange. And yet she supports this thing called the Oil Exchange? Unbelievable.

GMA used to be prudent about her nation-building policies and decisions. GMA was a respected economist who referred to feasibility studies and sound, innovative programs. And she was an outstanding ambassador for the Philippines who urged visitors and investors to pay attention to our country. Until now.

We suggest you evaluate your proposed changes, priorities and promises to the Filipinos again, Madame Vice President. Even before you urge us to consider calling you Madame President.—**TWINKLE GONZALES, Legaspi Village, Makati City**

## LETTERS

# P1-M salary per congressman

ALBAY Rep. Joey Salceda is proposing that the salary for a congressman should be at least P1 million a month instead of the present salary of P35,000 a month excluding allowances.

I think the present salary is enough. To be in office as an elected public servant is to serve the people. The late Sen. Sergio Osmeña Jr. did not draw his monthly salary; instead he collected 50 centavos per semester or P1 a year as honorarium. That act should be emulated by our present lawmakers to erase doubts among the masses that they are running for Congress to enrich themselves.—**ELIGIO M. PASTORIN, 92 Paraiso St., Parang, Marikina City**

# Executive judge to senator-judges

THE SENATORS have taken their oaths as judges in the impeachment case against the President. Their oath is as solemn and sacred as the oaths taken by our regular judges.

I do not have any doubt that our senators are true to their oath. But their actions will sometimes be misunderstood or misinterpreted just as judges of our regular courts sometimes have their personal acts misinterpreted as inconsistent with the impartiality they swore to uphold. Their interpellations of witnesses and remarks to clarify some issues during the trial and their appearances at venues outside the Senate with other persons, as in TV or radio interviews, will be occasions for this misunderstanding.

I have been an executive judge of a regional trial court from 1984-1998, and I have found that impartiality is truly a very essential and indispensable ingredient of any judicial inquiry or trial. Judges try cases involving the life, liberty and property of some individuals who are parties or litigants in the case. Any unfair and partial conduct of the trial and decision rendered in the case by the trial judge does not merely result in grave injustice and great damage to the victims, but the faith and respect of the people in the courts and the judicial system are seriously corroded and social discontent is likely to result.

Any mishandling or partial and unfair resolution of the case will not only mean a miscarriage of justice, but it will jeopardize the future of our nation and indicate that the Filipino people are not yet prepared for a true democracy.

This impeachment case is far more important than any ordinary judicial litigation. A truly independent and impartial impeachment court alone can properly resolve the ultimate issues and promulgate a judicious decision acceptable to our people.

Considering the public concern over the impeachment case and the unavoidable propensity of some sectors to bring to the attention of the senator-judges their personal sentiments on the case, it may probably be helpful if, for the duration of the trial, the impeachment judges should read no newspapers or the like, avoid any TV and radio program which broadcast news and commentaries relating to the impeachment case and proceedings, and avoid any personal interviews regarding the case. If need be, in the highest interest of the nation, they may isolate themselves from public "contamination" while the trial is going on.

The entire Filipino nation is watching the impeachment trial and expects the Senate court to render an impartial and judicious judgment. We believe in the competence, integrity and impartiality of the senator-judges and we trust in their capability to promote the national interest.—**CLEMENTE C. ROSALES, Pido Street, Calbayog City**

# Education of the public in the impeachment trial

AFTER 12 days of hearings and endless out-of-court commentaries in all the media, the public may have, by now, a good understanding of what an impeachment of a president is all about. The Constitution provides the mechanics by which it is carried out but does not have a clear definition of this. By now, we understand that it is an act intended to remove from office a suspect official invested with vast powers and authority in order that he may no longer continue to abuse his powers.

An innocent president falsely accused is expected to absolve himself without difficulty, employing the vast resources of the presidency at his disposal to ferret out the truth. Failing at this, he may indeed be lacking in skills to run the government and may as well be removed. The presidency is no place for incompetents who are unable to defend themselves from false imputations with clear and incontrovertible proof of their integrity and who would resort to vagaries and technicalities of court rules like sly bureaucrats confronted with possible evidence of their crime.

On the court scene, we may have evolved impeachment procedures unique and justly applicable in a presidential impeachment. It would seem that it is salutary after all to allow senator-judges to ask questions and share their views with their peers, biased or impartial as they may be and flawed or substantial their arguments may be. The process could only serve to bring out the truth in the case at hand and bare before the light of day the depth and breadth of the wisdom of the judges.

The key to the impeachment trial's validity is an impartial presiding Supreme Court justice, applying the rules of court for an orderly process and adjusting so these do not impede the search for truth, bearing in mind that this is not a matching of wits by clever lawyers but an earnest inquiry into the fitness of one man to continue to be at the helm of the ship of state.

A free, impartial and courageous press to inform and enlighten the public is indispensable as in all crises that visit the nation. As important as those who argue are those who help the public through the complexity of contending arguments with enlightened opinions.

Finally, courageous citizens willing to contribute their knowledge of the truth where they are in position of this, regardless of the perils to their persons, and unstinting support by compatriots of unwavering vigilance, are the ultimate ingredients for success of this undertaking.—**E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

# Will the Church never be satisfied?

DURING the Mass last Dec. 10, 2000 at the St. Thaddeus Shrine in Bacolod City, President Estrada announced, in the presence of Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich, that he would commute the death sentences of 110 death convicts, already affirmed by the Supreme Court, in observance of the Jubilee Year of the Catholic Church.

But in Davao City, Fr. Leonardo Dublan said that Mr. Estrada should have pushed for the scrapping of Republic Act 7659, otherwise known as the Death Penalty Law.

Father Dublan should understand that the power to repeal or amend RA 7659 is vested in Congress. The power of the President is limited to pardoning and commutation which he did as a kind gesture.

But for this he did not escape criticism from the Church. Is the President always wrong in all his official actions as always portrayed by the Church? —**ELIGIO M. PASTORIN, 92 Paraiso St., Parang, Marikina City**

# Better than any telenovela

I AM elated by the recent turn of events: the impeachment trial has broken the record of all local and Mexican telenovelas in viewership. This is evident and there is no question about it. Since Day One of the trial, Filipinos have been glued to their television sets and anywhere you go, be it the restaurants, shopping malls, hospitals, bus stations, barbershops, private and government offices and even the resorts, people are attentively watching the impeachment trial.

In my view, this is a trial not only of President Estrada but of the more than 10 million Filipinos who catapulted him into power. The present scenario shows how deeply interested we all are in the facts being established about the credibility of the President. And many are now wondering whether they have committed the greatest blunder of their lives.

The President has repeatedly said that he would not resign for he is innocent of the charges imputed against him. But what if he is later found guilty? To millions of Filipinos, he would probably earn the monicker as the greatest liar in Philippine history. But whether or not the judgment is for or against conviction, let us keep our fingers crossed and pray that no mass actions, civil unrest or any lawless violence would ensue.—**ABNER B. CABISUELAS, Office of the Comelec Secretary, Commission on Elections, Intramuros, Manila**

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# The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

# Thai poll winner moves to form gov't

**BANGKOK—Thaksin Shinawatra, the winner in Thailand's general election, was moving swiftly Sunday to shape a coalition lineup, but local television stations indicated his party might be able to form a government on its own.**

Two television stations monitoring exit polls said Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai, or Thai Love Thai, party had captured 256 of the 500 seats in the lower house of parliament. This would give the party a majority.

But Thaksin, a telecommunications tycoon charged with corruption, has said he wanted a majority of about 320 seats to form a stable government.

Despite a strong drive to eradicate graft in recent years, Saturday's election appeared to show that Thais preferred the scandal-tainted Thaksin to Chuan Leekpai, the scrupulously honest but uninspiring prime minister whose success in improving the troubled economy has been spotty.

"If the official results are in line with the exit polls, I regard them as the people's mandate for me to work for the nation, and I will do my best not to disappoint the people," Thaksin said Saturday night.

Earlier exit polls conducted by three television stations indicated Thaksin's party captured at least 203 and possibly 241 of the parliamentary seats.

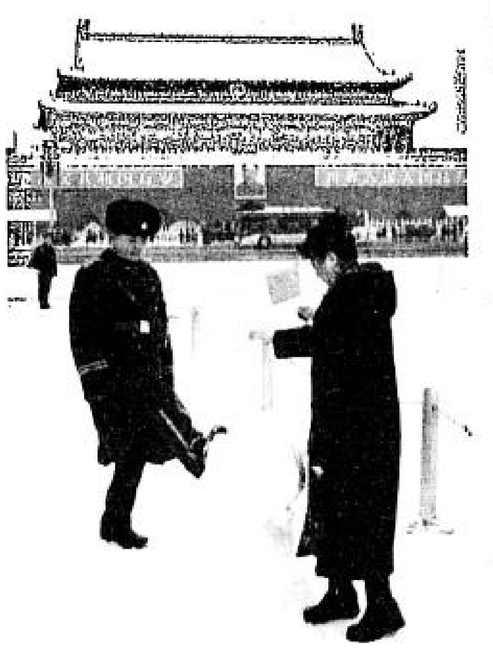
Chuan's Democrat Party was projected to come in second, with 109 to 135 seats. The projections were based on information gathered by reporters, pollsters and nongovernmental organizations.

"We are ready to be the opposition party," said Abhisit Vejjajiva, deputy leader of the Democrats.

An election commission official told reporters that national results should be announced Monday night, except for four constituencies where balloting problems stopped the voting. Some official results are expected Sunday.

Despite a record turnout estimated at 70 percent of the nation's 43 million voters, the balloting was marred by reportedly massive cheating. The watchdog Election Commission said it had received a flood of complaints that could lead to disqualification or revotes for some 100 winners.

*AP*



**FALLEN SNOWMAN** REUTERS

A Chinese policeman destroys a snowman to the surprise of a tourist holding a national flag on Tiananmen Square after the first snowfall of the new year in Beijing, Jan. 7.

# Israelis, PLO aim to reduce violence during 4-way meeting

JERUSALEM—Palestinians and Israelis will take part Sunday in a four-way meeting with CIA chief George Tenet and Egyptian officials in an effort to reduce violence, as prospects of reaching a final peace agreement before US President Bill Clinton leaves office fade.

"This meeting is not the first of its kind, and is the continuity of similar meetings held in Cairo, after the Sharm el-Sheikh summit," said a Palestinian who asked not to be named. He added that the location for the meeting was being kept secret.

"These meetings aim at implementing the security arrangements decided at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit," held last October in the presence of Clinton, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, he added.

He said that the aim of the Cairo four-way summit with the CIA (US Central Intelligence Agency) was to "return to a pre-Sept.-28 situation," a reference to the date on which the intifada, or Palestinian uprising, started.

The uprising has claimed 369 lives so far.

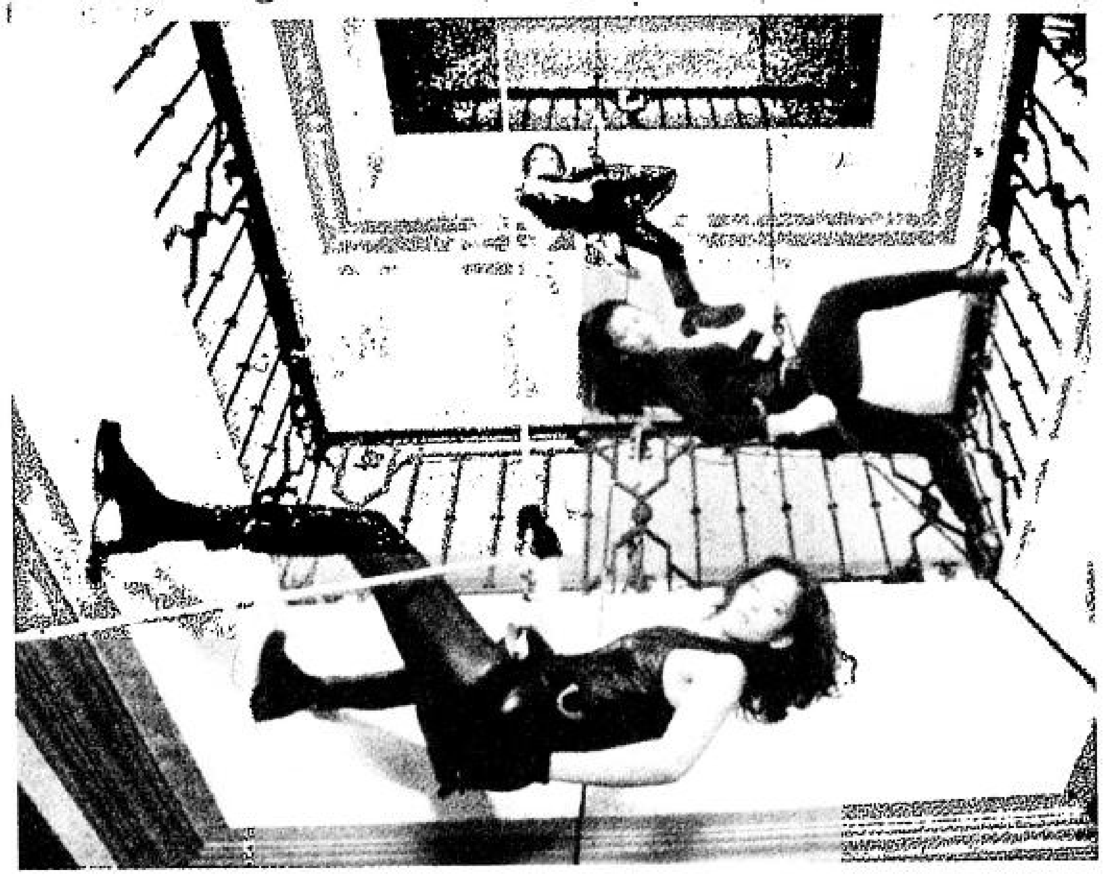
The Israeli delegation will include the head of the Shin Beth security service, Avraham Dichter, and a senior member of the army, Shlomo Yanai, an official source said.

Asked about earlier reports that Tourism Minister and former army chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak would be attending, defense ministry spokesperson David Zisso said his presence had never been officially confirmed.

The Palestinian delegation will include Amin al-Handi, chair of general Palestinian intelligence, and Jibril Rajub, head of preventive security in the West Bank.

*AFP*

Others will go the extra length to find out our secret



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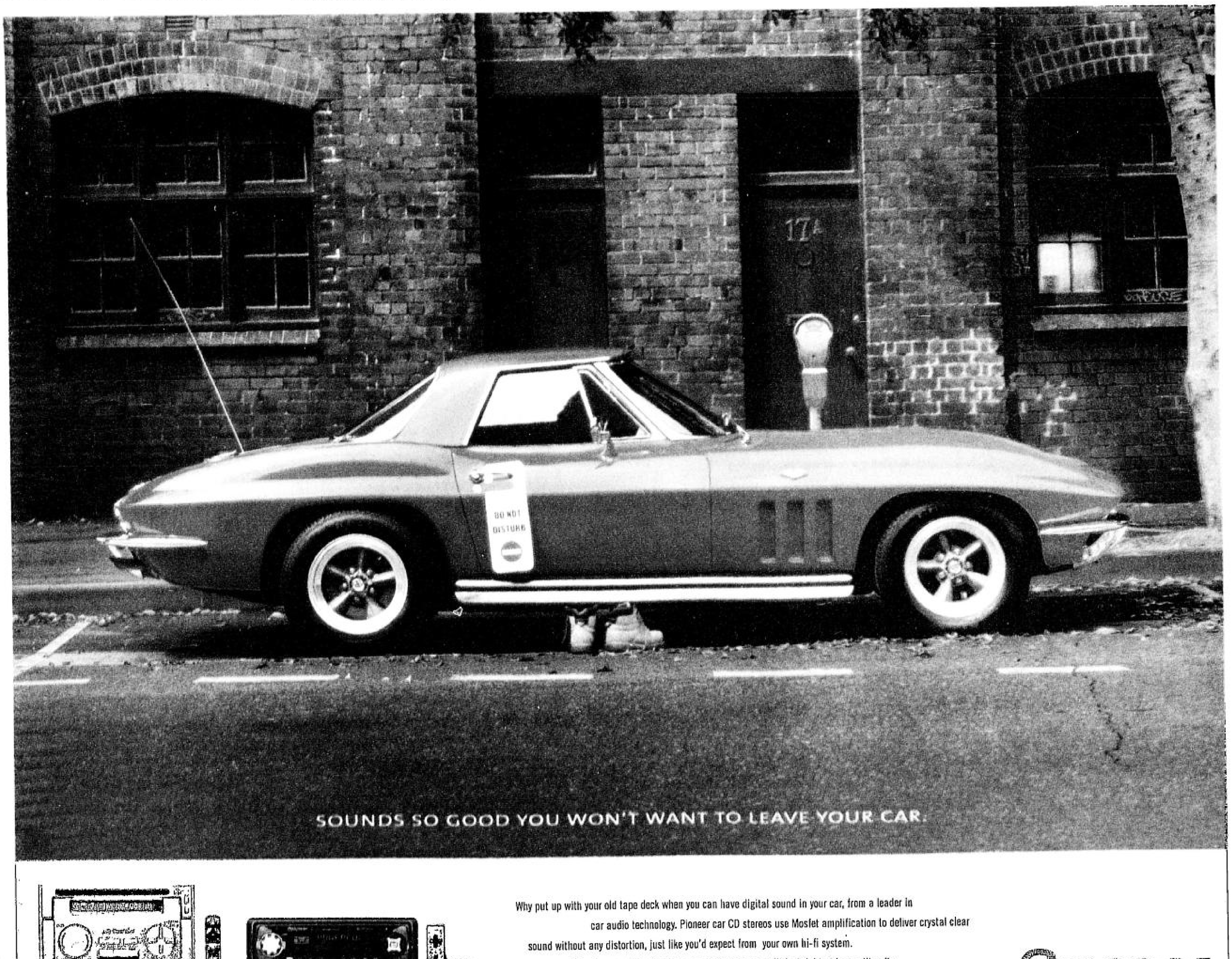

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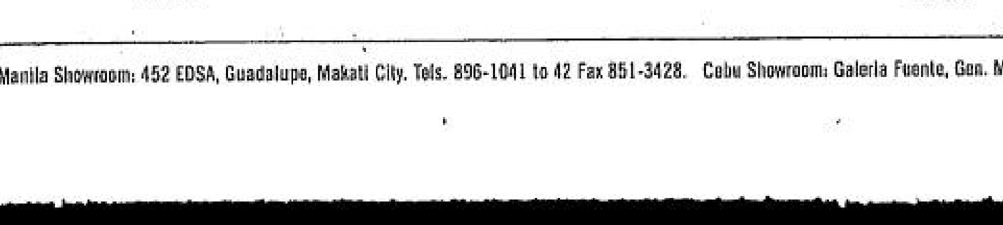

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# ‘Prophets’ burst into Mass, kill nun, set people afire

CASTRIES, St. Lucia—Days after two Rastafarians burst into Mass wielding flaming torches and clubs, St. Lucians are asking themselves what sort of belief in God could possibly have driven the attackers to beat a nun to death and set worshippers on fire.

Many throughout the Caribbean island of 156,000 people quietly mourned Saturday as the country prepared to bury the slain Irish nun, Sister Theresa Egan.

Some also sought divine intervention to heal tensions between the Roman Catholic majority and Rastafarians: “We just pray that out of all of this, that this blood can be a cleansing for the nation,” said one nun, Sister Rufina Donat.

The two suspects arrested after the attack allegedly told police they were Rastafarian “prophets” on a mission to combat corruption in the Roman Catholic Church.

But many people in St. Lucia, one of the world’s tiniest nations, said they were baffled by what is now being called the most heinous crime in the history of this former French and then British colony.

“That’s devil work,” said Ellen James, a 53-year-old worshipper who fled the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception when she saw three attackers beating worshippers, dousing them with gasoline and setting them afire during the morning Mass on New Year’s Eve.

One suspect, 20-year-old Kim John, once celebrated his first Holy Communion in that very cathedral. He and 34-year-old Francis Phillip face charges of murder, attempted murder, arson, causing harm and grievous harm, police said.

“I don’t understand,” said his mother, Veronica John, who is Catholic.

“I asked him why he did that. He told me they did it for the freedom of the nation, because we have to be free,” she said. “He said if he has another chance to do it again, he will do it.”

She said her son, who became a Rastafarianism about a year ago, told her he had been sent on a mission from God.

Police say they believe the two men—and possibly one or two others—acted alone on a philosophy that was their own. Many of St. Lucia’s Rastafarians have denounced the attack, saying it goes against their belief in peaceful coexistence.

Rastafarianism, followed by perhaps 1 million people worldwide, emerged in Jamaica and spread throughout the Caribbean in the 1930s out of the anger felt by descendants of slaves with the colonial powers’ oppression of blacks.

The religion has traditionally been based on peaceful principles, but some Rastas nowadays are more hostile to Catholics than to other Christians because of the Italian conquest of Ethiopia, home to the late Emperor Haile Selassie, whom Rastafarians worship as a manifestation of God.

Popularized worldwide by the late reggae singer Bob Marley, Rastafarianism is often noted for its principle that marijuana encourages the calm necessary for religious meditation. Adherents are easily distinguished by the dreadlocks which police said the attackers wore—though not all people who cultivate dreadlocks are Rastas. For some, it’s a fashion statement. *AP*

## Nurse nabbed for slay try on young patient

TOKYO—A 29-year-old Japanese male nurse has been arrested for allegedly attempting to kill an 11-year-old patient with a potentially-fatal intravenous drip, police said Sunday.

Police arrested Daisuke Mori Saturday on suspicion of attempting to kill the girl in October by administering a muscle relaxant at Hokuryou Clinic in Sendai in Miyagi prefecture, northeastern Japan.

The patient was hospitalized on Oct. 31 after complaining of a stomachache, but moved to another hospital immediately after she became unconscious following the intravenous drip.

The victim is still in a critical condition.

“We arrested him on Saturday as we reached a conclusion that he attempted to kill the girl by intentionally providing a muscle relaxant,” said a spokesperson for the Miyagi Police Department.

“We are still investigating his motive,” added the spokesperson, who declined to be named.

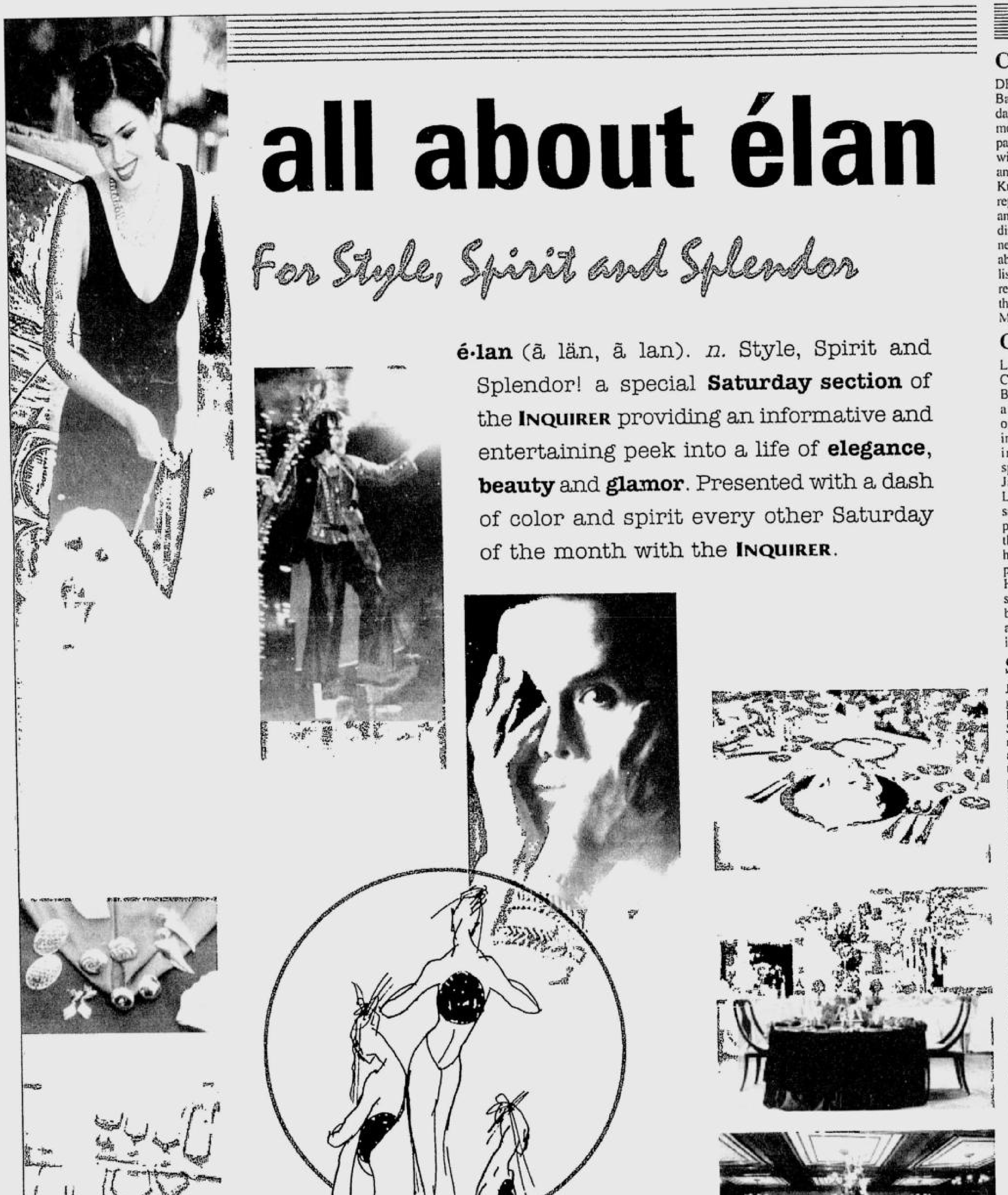
Troubles between the suspect and the clinic may be behind the crime, the Asahi Shimbun and other dailies reported.

Some 10 patients died or became seriously ill after the suspect put them on a drip, news reports said.

Muscle relaxant is used during operations so that a tube can easily be inserted into patients.

The drug, often used for mercy killing of animals, can be fatal if used in excess.

Police raided the clinic late Saturday and seized documents related to the case, the police spokesman said. *AFP*



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## WORLDBRIEFS

### Cold wave deaths: 21

DHAKA—A cold wave sweeping across northern Bangladesh has killed at least 31 people over four days, news reports said Sunday. The victims were mostly old women and children who sleep on pavements or in flimsy huts unprotected from chilly winds. Twenty-three deaths were reported Friday and Saturday in the districts of Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Kurigram and Bogra, Dhaka’s Ittefaq newspaper reported. Another eight people died Wednesday and Thursday in Pabna, Kurigram and Rangpur districts, according to the Jugantar and Inqilab newspapers. No official death figure was available, as the government administration does not list such casualties. Temperatures in the northern region have dropped to 7 degrees Celsius, lower than the usual at this time of the year, Dhaka’s Meteorological Department said. *AP*

### Charles breaks bone in fall

CHARLES

LONDON—Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, broke a bone in his shoulder on Saturday after falling off his horse during a fox hunt, a spokeswoman for St James’s Palace, his London residence, said. The 52-year-old prince was thrown to the ground when his horse took an “unexpected jump” during a ride with the Mey Nell Hunt in Derbyshire, central England, the spokesperson said. An X-ray revealed he had broken a small bone in his left shoulder, she added. Doctors decided the injury would heal itself and put his arm in a sling. *AFP*

### Suharto guard nabbed

JAKARTA—Police have arrested a former bodyguard and business associate of the fugitive son of Indonesian ex-dictator Suharto, news reports said Sunday. Police Col. Harry Montolalu said officers raided Indra Hasan’s home early Saturday morning and arrested him for illegal possession of a pistol, the Kompas newspaper reported. Hasan worked as a personal bodyguard for Hutomo “Tommy” Mandala Putra, who has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for corruption but has been missing since police issued a warrant for his arrest two months ago, the report said. He also headed two of Tommy’s numerous businesses. *AP*

### Doc gives suicide tips

MELBOURNE—Australian euthanasia advocate Dr. Philip Nitschke said he plans to start telling healthy elderly people how to kill themselves. Nitschke’s euthanasia workshop, scheduled for later this month in the southern island state of Tasmania, will mark the first time he has informed people who are not terminally ill how to take their own lives. Some senior citizens want to learn how to end their lives—and which drugs they would need—while they are still in control of their own destinies, according to Nitschke. *AP*

### Bomb blood in Indon isle

JAKARTA—A bomb exploded in a village on Indonesia’s resort island of Lombok, but no one was injured, news reports said Sunday. Local police chief Assistant Commissioner Lukman Nul Hakim said the explosion happened on Saturday night as a meeting of community and religious leaders was getting underway, state Antara news agency reported. The bomb damaged part of a house near where the meeting was being held, he told the news agency. Hakim said police were investigating the explosion but were unsure if it was linked to inter-village fighting on Lombok on Wednesday that left nine people dead. Lombok’s thriving tourist industry has been in a slump for the past year since riots by Muslim radicals shook the island last January. Churches and businesses belonging to the island’s Christian minority were ransacked or burned in sectarian attacks. Lombok is located about 40 km east of Indonesia’s main tourist island of Bali. *AP*

### Hopes fade for 21 miners

BEIJING—Rescuers working round the clock to reach 21 miners trapped in a flooded Chinese coal mine said hopes of finding them alive were fading, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Only one of 22 miners working in the mine in Laibing county in the Guangxi region of south China managed to escape when it flooded Friday morning, Xinhua said. Six pumps worked through the night on sucking water out of the mine, but “despite intensive efforts, chances of survival are running out for the trapped miners because of the excessively deep water,” Xinhua said in a report late Saturday. Rescue attempts were continuing Sunday, but no survivors had yet been found, said a Laibing county government official reached by telephone. He gave his name as Mr. Li. The cause of the accident was under investigation, Xinhua said. *AP*

# Gore presides as Congress certifies Bush win

WASHINGTON—With the vanquished Vice President Al Gore presiding, Congress formally anointed George W. Bush as the victor in last year's achingly close and bitterly contested presidential election.

In a hoary constitutional ritual that made up with political irony and shouted objections what it lacked in suspense, four members of Congress read aloud documents Saturday certifying the electoral votes of each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, all in alphabetical order.

When they finished an alternately raucous and humorous 92 minutes later, the Republican Bush had won by 271-266. To prevail, the winner needed 270 of the 538 electoral votes nationwide.

Reading from a sheaf of papers, and showing no apparent emotion, Gore intoned:

"George W. Bush of the state of Texas has received for president of the United States 271 votes. Al Gore of the state of Tennessee has received 266 votes... This announcement of the state of the vote by the president of the Senate shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected president and vice president of the United States, each for the term beginning on the 20th day of January 2001, and shall be entered, together with a list the votes, on the journals of the Senate and the House of Representatives."

After announcing the results, Gore, a Democrat, said, "May God bless our new president and our new vice president, and may God bless the United States of America." At that, he shook the outstretched hand of House Speaker Dennis Hastert, and a number of others, and it was over.

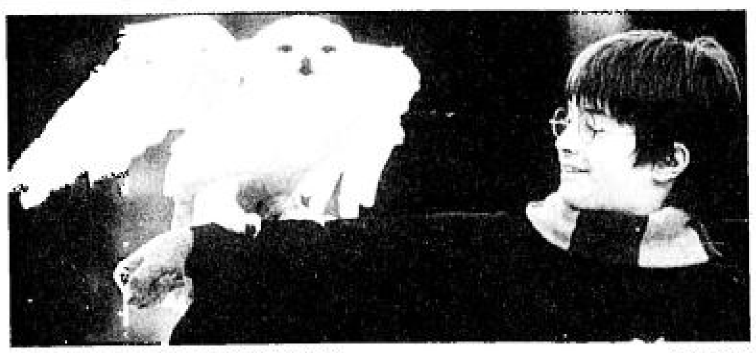
Gore was presiding because it is one of the duties of the vice president. The last vice president defeated in a presidential race to oversee Congress' counting of the electoral votes was Richard Nixon in 1961. Vice President Hubert Humphrey did not do so in 1969, following his defeat by Nixon.

The joint session of Congress drew extraordinary attention because it was the final vote tally in a disputed presidential race that did not end until five weeks after the Nov. 7 election. Gore did not concede until Dec. 13, a day after the US Supreme Court forced a halt to vote-counting in Florida.

Even so, House Democrats—mostly blacks—raised 20 objections during the session aimed at blocking Florida's pivotal 25 electoral votes from being counted. Many Democrats have asserted that Bush won Florida unfairly because some votes were not counted and because of a disproportionate number of irregularities in largely black, mostly Democratic areas.

"It was the Supreme Court and not the people of the United States who decided this election," said Rep. Barbara Lee, over shouts from Republicans.

But time and again, Gore—blending wit and formality—disallowed the objections because they were not also signed by a senator, as required by law. That shortcoming underlined the judgment by many Democrats that the public had no patience to resume battling over the election outcome. *AP*



**HARRY AND HEDWIG** REUTERS

Actor Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter holds Hedwig the owl on his arm during the shooting of the film "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in this undated photo. The film is currently in production and will be released worldwide this November.

# Pandas become instant hit with Clinton

WASHINGTON—President Bill Clinton paid a private courtesy call Saturday on Washington's newly arrived Chinese pandas, marveling over their boundless appetites and watching them scramble up the snow-covered rocks of their chilly outdoor enclosure.

"They're beautiful and they're different and I think they're fascinating," Clinton said. He predicted that Tian Tian and Mei Xiang would be an instant hit with visitors to the National Zoo when the pandas make their public debut Wednesday.

The pandas are still in quarantine after their journey last month from a reserve in China's Sichuan Province. The president, daughter Chelsea, and two nephews put on light-blue protective booties over their shoes before they toured the renovated Panda House.

Clinton peppered the zoo's director, Lucy Spellman, with questions about the pandas and their habits, and expressed special interest in their diet and appetites.

"Look at that! Wow!" Clinton exclaimed as the pandas rollicked behind plate glass in their indoor quarters, zestfully eating bamboo and carrots.

"They just inhale their food," Spellman told the president.

"They wolf it down, don't they?" Clinton agreed, then looked back at the remains of a panda lunch. "They did a pretty good job but they missed some carrots in the back," he said.

Inspecting the outdoor enclosure Clinton showed off some of the information he had just learned about the pandas.

"They eat 18 kg a day of bamboo and carrots," he said. "He weighs 96 kg," Clinton said, pointing to the male panda, Tian Tian whose name translates as "more and more."

"And she weighs 108 kg and something," he continued, pointing at the female, Mei Xiang, whose Chinese name means "beautiful fragrance." *AP*

# Lawyers want Pinochet under house arrest

SANTIAGO—Prosecution lawyers Saturday asked a Chilean judge to place ex-dictator Augusto Pinochet under house arrest to ensure he is present for medical tests that would determine whether he is fit to stand trial for alleged human rights abuses.

The ailing retired general defied Judge Juan Guzman Tapia's order earlier this week, saying through his lawyers he would not attend a hospital where he is due to undergo tests Sunday and Monday, or appear for an interrogation slated for Tuesday.

"With respect to how the house arrest will take shape, we call for prudent measures, that the best thing would be for Pinochet to stay where he is currently and the interrogation be carried out there," said Hugo Gutierrez, a prosecuting lawyer.

A spokesperson for the Military Hospital of Santiago said it did not know, meanwhile, whether Pinochet will actually show up for the tests.

Guzman plans to be at the hospital both days and will officially record the ex-strongman's absence if he fails to attend, a court spokesperson said.

Pinochet is under investigation for murder and kidnapping in connection with the deaths and disappearances of 75 opponents in the "Caravan of Death" summary executions, in the month after he took power in September 1973.

In all, Guzman is considering more than 200 complaints against the 85-year-old former general, who ruled Chile with an iron fist for 17 years following a bloody military coup that overthrew socialist president Salvador Allende. *AFP*

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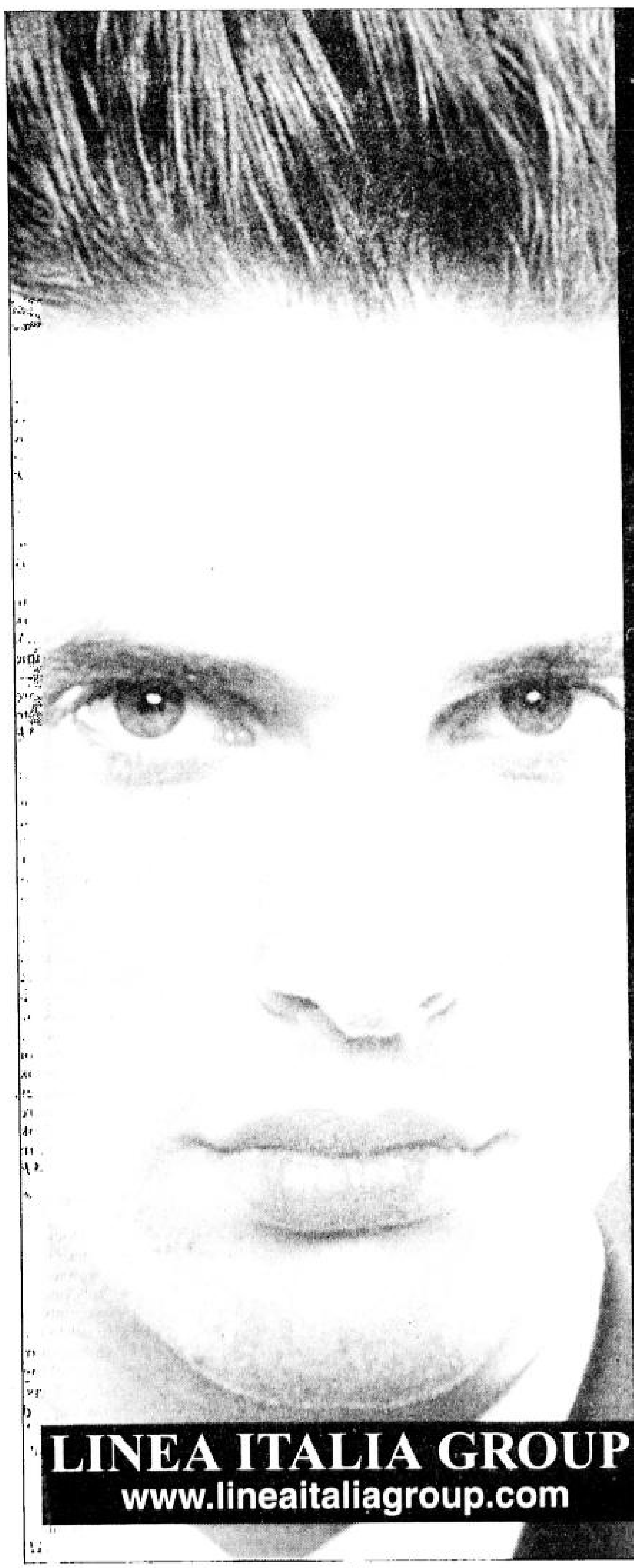

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## POLL SHOWDOWN

# Ilocos Norte arms buildup revealed

**By Cristina Arzadon**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

LAOAG CITY—If the plan to set up a police checkpoint this early in Ilocos Norte is anything to go by, the May 14 elections in the province may prove to be more heated than the previous one.

The Commission on Elections has raised the need to set up a police checkpoint at the boundaries of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte at "the soonest possible time" following reports that certain groups have started bringing in guns into Ilocos Norte.

Noli Pipo, Ilocos Norte election supervisor, confirmed reports that guns are already in the hands of groups whose goal is to counter the well-entrenched political clans in the province.

He, however, refused to divulge the origin or the recipients of the guns.

"They are bringing in firearms. They have been doing this for the last three months," he told the INQUIRER.

Pipo, who lives in Ilocos Sur, disclosed that people from Ilocos Norte have been trooping to its neighboring province to buy guns.

"We plan to set up checkpoints on a 24-hour basis the soonest possible time until after the elections because firearms are coming in for the elections," he said.

### Watch list

The Comelec has also placed in its watch list the towns of Paoay, Badoc, Solsona and this city where intense political rivalry is likely to occur.

Pipo said tension among possible candidates in these areas has started to rise early into the election season. He did not elaborate.

He said several factors were considered in placing the areas under the Comelec watch list. These are the presence and character of political supporters and the possibility of massive vote buying.

He cited the three towns and this city as possible election hot spots.

A hot spot is declared on the expectation that violence will erupt and political rivals will use intimidation, he said.

"When you commit violence and employ intimidation, you need force, you need goons and then you need to arm your goons," he said.

### Pagudpud

Surprisingly, Pagudpud town was not included among those being closely watched by the Comelec.

Pagudpud has consistently emerged in the Comelec list in past elections for having been a stronghold of old political foes—the Benemerito and Sales families.

In 1999, Pagudpud made it to the headlines because of the killing of former mayor Rafael Benemerito by incumbent Mayor Reynolan Sales reportedly over a land dispute.

Sales, who was detained briefly and released through a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court, said he shot Benemerito in self-defense.

Both camps are reportedly fielding their relatives for the mayoral post. Sales is on his third and last term.

But Pipo said the Pagudpud post might be a toss-up not only between the Benemeritos and the Saleses but also between the political newcomers in the town.

"We don't see it as limited to a Benemerito-Sales race because their clout has diminished. Both bigwigs seem to have been incapacitated, that is why new names are cropping up," he said.

### Laoag City

In Laoag City, all eyes are set on the mayoral race as incumbent Mayor Roger Fariñas is likely to face a formidable foe in Col. Wilfredo Nicolas, former chief of the defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau.

Nicolas is said to have strong backing from Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who had a falling out with the Fariñases. Marcos and his erstwhile buddy, Ilocos Norte Rep Rodolfo Fariñas, had been engaged in a verbal tussle shortly after the 1998 elections.

Pipo said both Fariñas and Nicolas are moneyed and have supporters who are willing to put their lives on the line just so their candidates will win.

"But both camps are silent (for now). And I don't like that. I don't like it when people are silent," Pipo said.

Since Tuesday, the first day of filing of certificates of candidacies, however, no one has declared a bid to contest an office in all provincial elective positions. The Comelec is expecting the droves of candidates by February.

Of the 23 towns and one city in the province, seven mayors are on their third and last terms. Seventeen of the mayors are aligned with the Lakas-NUCD, the ruling party in the 1998 elections.

### Bulacan

In Bulacan, police officials have placed at least seven towns in the province under their watch for possible election-related violence.

Supt. Emelito Sarmiento, Bulacan police director, identified these towns as Doña Remedios Trinidad, San Ildefonso and San Miguel, classified as the most critical areas; and Angat, Norzagaray, Meycauayan and Malolos.

Sarmiento designated Supt. Edgardo Gumban as head of the Provincial Elections Monitoring Assistance Center (Pemac) while the 24 police chiefs in the province were tasked as heads of their Municipal Elections Monitoring Assistance Center (Memac).

Sarmiento said the classification of the towns as possible hot spots is based on the existence of guns, goons and violence involving politicians.

He said the Dec. 4 killing of Doña Remedios Trinidad Mayor Esteban Paulino and his two aides had placed the town among the most critical areas in the province.

San Ildefonso was also included in the list because of the killing of former Mayor Honorato Galvez and his bodyguard in June last year.

Both incidents were described by the police as politically motivated. *With reports from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

RIZA MANANSALA

**CUT AND DRIED**
An old woman sells dried boneless *bangus* (milkfish) in an open stall in the coastal town of Bolinao in Pangasinan.

# Radio commentator, 3 others get life for councilor's killing

DAVAO CITY—A radio commentator, a military officer, a soldier and another civilian were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a city councilor here nearly 11 years ago.

In a 24-page decision promulgated Friday, Regional Trial Court Judge Salvador Ibarreta convicted four of the seven accused in the murder of Councilor Cesar "Abog" Robillo on May 18, 1990.

A scion of a local prominent clan, Robillo was shot dead at the defunct Licore Bar of the family-owned Hotel Maguindanao here.

Convicted were Joey Herbolingo, anchor and commentator of the "Oras Na!" daily radio program over ABS-CBN's dxAB; Army Lt. Angel Adrian Sievert II, Pfc. Roberto Gocila and Henry Adriano, a former aide of then Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

Ibarreta also ordered the four to pay the heirs of Robillo P200,000 for actual damages, P20,000 for exemplary damages, P20,000 for moral damages, P1.5 million for unearned income, and P120,000 as lawyers' fees.

The judge, however, acquitted Maj. Mario Monsanto, Cpl. Roberto Bibe and Ariel Yanoog, also a former aide of Duterte for lack of strong evidence.

No ruling was made on another accused, Cesar Damaso, who is at large.

Bibe died of cardiac arrest on July 22, 1996.

The four convicts remained free as of Friday as Ibarreta did not order their immediate arrest and detention.

Ibarreta explained to reporters that he could not order their arrest in accordance with the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedures as amended on Dec. 1, 2000.

Under the new rules, convicts who were granted bail before their conviction can still enjoy their freedom unless the prosecution challenges it, he said.

Ibarreta said the prosecution should file a motion to cancel the bail. He said he is mandated to issue his ruling within 30 days after that motion is filed.

"We may find this (ruling) odd but this is due process. This is what the law says," Ibarreta said. *Jowel Canuday and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Cops pursue NPA raiders

TACLOBAN CITY—Government troopers have launched pursuit operations against some 60 communist rebels who attacked a police station in Northern Samar and killed a young woman and her less than a month old baby.

Two platoons from the Northern Samar Provincial Police Office and the Police Regional Mobile Group helped Army soldiers of the 34th Infantry Battalion based in Catarman in hunting the New People Army's guerrillas.

The joint team was scouring the area near Barangay Tarabucan, Oquindo District, Calbayog City in Samar where the rebels were believed to have fled after the attack.

Oquindo is near the boundary of Northern Samar and Samar.

Police reports showed that some 60 heavily armed rebels attacked the police station in Lope de Vega, Northern Samar around 5:40 a.m. on Jan. 5.

Killed were Lydia Bellon, 22, and her daughter Cresalyn, who was born on Dec. 13. The victims, who were inside their house near the police station, were hit by wayward bullets

Wounded were SPO4 Enrique Dino, the town's police chief, and PO1 Gaspar Sabang. They were brought to the Northern Samar provincial hospital in Catarman town.

Dino and his five policemen fought back at the rebels. After about 45 minutes of gunfire, the rebels withdrew.

Before they left town, the rebels reportedly entered the house of PO2 Gregorio Sanico, who was then at the police station, and took several rounds of ammunition and an undetermined amount of money. The house is some 500 meters from the police station.

Members of the Sanico family, who hid at the comfort room, were not harmed.

The rebels fired at the house of Lope de Vega Vice Mayor Erlinda Palloc. Her security officer reportedly fired at the rebels who later decided to leave.

The rebels, reportedly led by a certain Kumander Acopar, were armed with M-60 machine guns and M-14 rifles. *Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

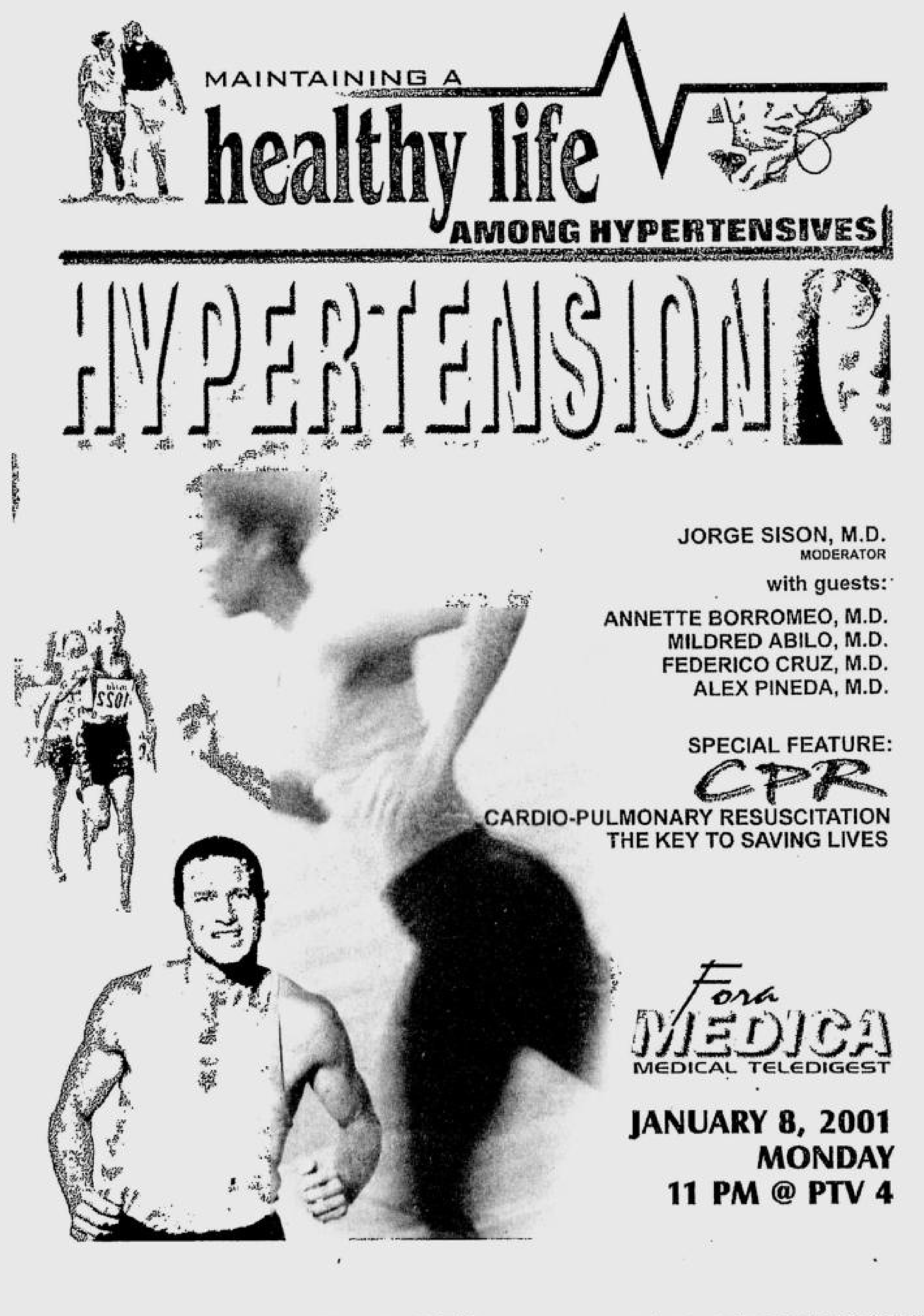
# School president suspended

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Ombudsman suspended the president of the Cagayan State University (CSU) here for one month for graft and corruption.

Jesus Guerrero, deputy Ombudsman for Luzon, ordered Ester Garcia, Commission on Higher Education chair, to immediately suspend CSU president Armando Cortes for one month without pay.

Guerrero issued the order on Dec. 8 following a complaint filed by the former CSU vice president, Fr. Ranhilio Aquino, and other professors and school personnel.

Cortes was accused of using university funds for his personal interest. He and his wife Erlinda attended a conference of presidents of state universities and colleges in the United States with the instruction that Ms Cortes had to pay her travel expenses and attendance from her personal funds, the complaint said. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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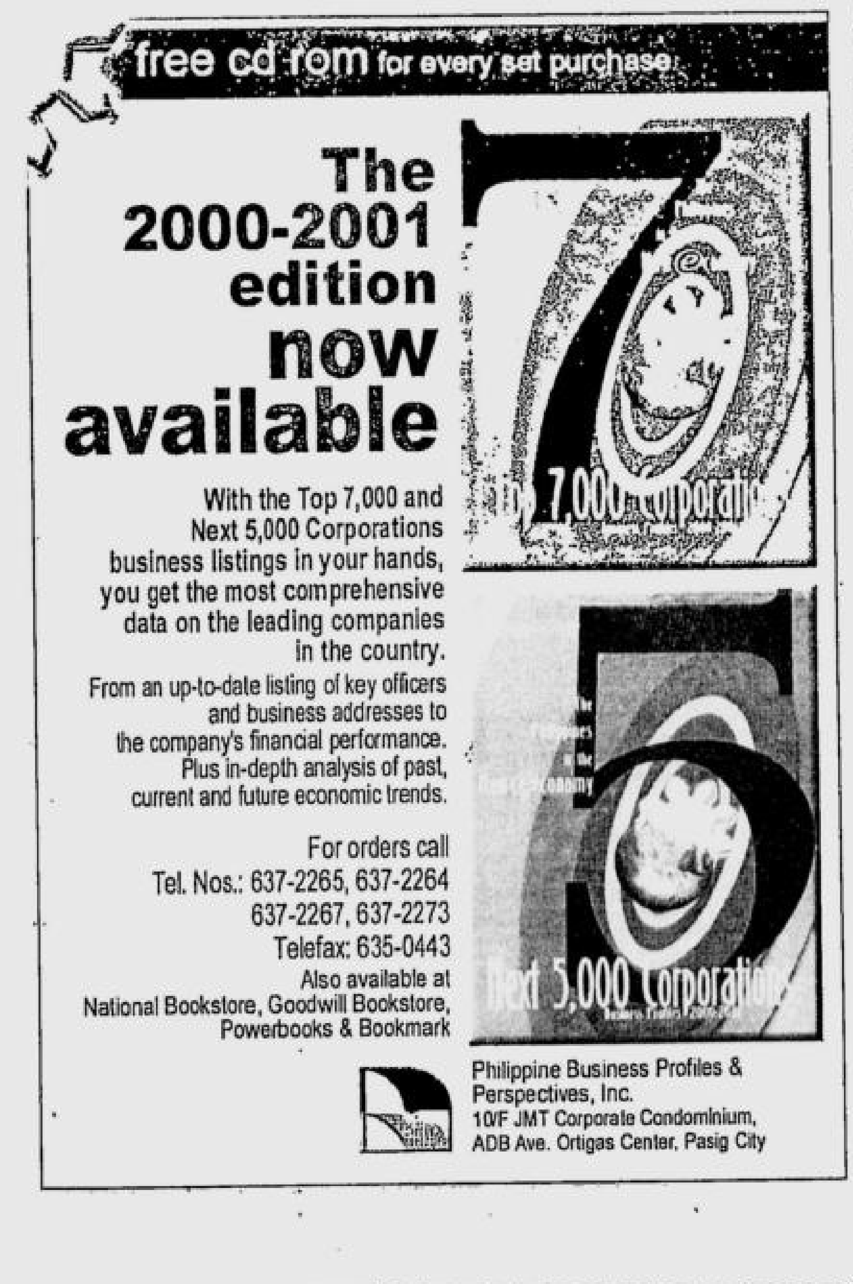
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## Benguet town withdraws San Roque dam support

BY AVIGAIL OLARTE
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ITOGON, Benguet—The municipal council revoked its endorsement of the controversial San Roque Multipurpose Dam Project (SRMDP) on Wednesday and rebuked the national government for deceiving the Ibalois.

"We have given them (government) time to prove their worth but they are worthless," said Vice Mayor Aloysius Kato.

He said the council has established what he called the "patterns of deceit" by the government for its empty promises to Itogon.

The council said the ongoing impeachment trial of President Estrada has contributed to this problem since everything is now at a "standstill."

Kato said the trial has crippled the P20.2-billion SRMDP and placed agencies involved in the project in a "drifting state."

The council voted to override the mayor's veto on Resolution No. 180, which revoked Itogon's endorsement of the project. The San Roque Dam was designed to augment the power supply and irrigate farms in Northern and Central Luzon.

"Our decision would hit the Estrada administration hard. The construction of the dam would have to stop. However, we are still open for reconsideration but the government has to be sincere this time," Kato said.

The council castigated the National Power Corp., Department of Environment and Natural Resources, presidential committee of flagship programs and projects, San Roque Power Corp. and other agencies for their non-compliance with the 17 conditions that would allow the project.

### 3 MORE IN CORDILLERA

## Tribes wary of new dam projects

BAGUIO CITY—Tribal communities in the Cordillera are wary of the proposed construction of three multipurpose dams in Abra, Ifugao and Benguet, saying these projects would cause social and environmental havoc, especially in host communities.

Joan Carling, secretary general of the Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA), said the consent of the affected communities was not sought on the dam projects.

The proposed facilities are the Palsiguan multipurpose dam in Tineg, Abra; the Matuno River dam project in the boundary of Ifugao and Ambaguio, Nueva Vizcaya; and a mega-dam along the Amburayan River in northern Benguet.

Carling said there was no need to build more dams in the Cordilleras as the National Power Corp. (Napocor) reported that from 2000 to 2010, the region would be supplied with adequate electricity from the surplus generated by existing dams in the area.

"The question here is, does the region need these dams? We all know that the only ones who would benefit from these dams are the investors themselves," she said.

She cited as an example the construction of a diversion tunnel in Barangay Kayapa in Bakun town that dried up the village's river and affected the residents' farming activities. Water from Kayapa runs the turbines of the power plants in Alilem, Ilocos Sur.

Nippon Koei Co. of Japan and a surveyor of the Nueva Vizcaya provincial irrigation office revealed in a geological study that the Matuno River dam project would affect families living in Sitios Cabudayan and Lower Duli in Barangay Ammueg, in Asipulo, Ifugao, according to the CPA.

The P5-billion project will be built under a build-operate-transfer scheme.

Carling claimed these dams would serve not only their investors but also the big mining corporations in the region.

Benguet and Pangasinan host the San Roque multipurpose dam, which is being built along the Agno River. Affected Ibalois in Benguet and farmers in San Nicolas, Pangasinan are opposing the construction of the 345-megawatt dam.

"We all know that we do not need a dam in Cordillera, but it is clear to us that there is a massive promotion of the mining industry here. It is clear that these dams are meant to serve the power supply of these mining companies," Carling said.

Eduardo Austria, officer in charge of the Mine Management Division of the Mines and Geological Bureau, said since 1990, his office has approved nine mining applications. But he said these applications were under the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA).

Austria said while the mining companies have their own power generators, they still buy power from the Napocor and need power supply from outside sources such as dams.

"Our agency is only concerned with the mining applications. We do not care about where these companies source their logistics such as power supply," he told the INQUIRER.

Austria said his agency believes the dams would not only augment power supply but also service the irrigation needs of the region.

"Cordillera is prone to dam construction because of the beautiful terrain and our river basins," Austria said.

The World Commission on Dams (WCD), an independent body sponsored by the World Bank and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, has questioned the validity of building dams in indigenous communities. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## Family of blast victim blames gov't, LRT execs

BY CYNTHIA BORGUETA
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

TACLOBAN CITY--The family of Rowena Chua, one of the 19 fatalities in the Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila, blamed the management of the LRT station and the Estrada administration for her death.

Showtee Chua, Rowena's mother, said the bombings would have been avoided had government officials made good their promise to protect the public.

"Had (the present administration) been serious in its commitment to do its job and if it had been true to its words to protect the people, my daughter would still be alive now," she lamented.

Mrs. Chua also blamed the LRT management. "What's the use of its security guards? Where were they (the guards) when the incident happened?"

She said she also could not understand why it took rescuers five hours to retrieve Rowena's body when her other daughter, Rhodora, had been found three hours earlier.

Rowena and Rhodora, along with their niece, Eunice Cañete, 4, and cousin, Joanne Go, went to Manila on Dec. 26 to attend a cousin's wedding.

Eunice was buried at the Chinese Cemetery in Tacloban City on Jan. 3. Rowena was interred Saturday morning in the same cemetery.

All the members of the Chua family were present to bid Rowena goodbye, except her older brother, Jun, who is still in the United States.

Mrs. Chua said Rowena had many unfulfilled dreams, like becoming a Certified Public Accountant. She said her daughter had planned to review for the CPA board exams in July.

She would have also wanted Rowena to raise her own family someday. "These wishes will (no longer come true) because my daughter is gone," she cried.

On Dec. 30, the four wanted to go shopping at Robinson's Shopping Mall on Pedro Gil Street in Manila, but they got lost. They instead took the LRT bound for Blumentritt. It was a fatal mistake.

The bomb planted near the door of Coach No. 1037 exploded when the train pulled to a stop.

Rowena and Eunice died instantly. Rhodora suffered burns on the face, a fracture in the left shoulder and damage in the left eardrum.

Rhodora and Joanne are still fighting for their lives at the Metropolitan Hospital in Binondo, Manila.

## Hope for Cordillera autonomy revived

BAGUIO CITY—There's still hope for the moribund Cordillera Administrative Region, which was given a winding-up budget last year by the national government.

Reports said Malacañang was inclined to reactivate the Cordillera Executive Board (CEB) and the Cordillera Regional Assembly (CRA).

The two agencies were created under Executive Order 220 issued in 1987 by then President Corazon Aquino shortly after she signed a peace agreement with former rebel priest Conrado Balweg.

A new executive order giving the CAR a new lease on life is reportedly being reviewed by newly appointed Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara.

CAR officials led by lawyer Nestor Atitiw, counsel for Balweg's old militia, the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), discussed the new directive during a press conference Thursday.

The CEB and the CRA are tasked with preparing Cordillerans for autonomy. Two organic acts for the Cordillera autonomy had been rejected by Cordillerans in two plebiscites.

The still unreleased executive order will be President Estrada's first substantial commitment to the CAR following Balweg's murder on Dec. 31, 1999 by communist New People's Army rebels in his ancestral home in Malibcong, Abra, said CEB Director Jose Nicolas Ilagan.

The order is also a response to a suit filed by the CPLA before the Supreme Court in September last year for applying a budget law that terminated the CAR's governing agencies.

The CPLA referred to the 2000 General Appropriations Act, which gave the CAR a winding-up budget of P18 million covering the operations of the CEB and the CRA only until March 2000.

Mr. Estrada issued EO No. 270 to extend the operations of the two agencies until September, but the order did not provide alternative mechanisms for the CAR. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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# 2 mistresses richer than Loi, says Joker

(From page A1)

Arroyo said yesterday that the prosecution team had acquired documents related to the accounts that Enriquez and Gomez were maintaining at different banks.

He said the prosecution would offer the documents as part of the evidence in the impeachment trial.

"In due time, these may have to be offered," Arroyo said.

Prosecutor-Rep. Oscar Moreno said the information about two of Mr. Estrada's mistresses could form part of the testimony that the prosecution would present this week.

"We anticipate that the defense will oppose it on the same ground that it's supposed to be irrelevant and immaterial. But if it's stolen, how can they say it's immaterial and irrelevant?" Moreno said.

### Transfer of funds

The prosecutor, who asked not to be named, said the panel has yet to directly link the Kelvin Garcia account to Mr. Estrada.

"Based on our investigation, Kelvin Garcia was a source of funds. President Estrada received millions from this Kelvin," the source said.

The prosecutor said Garcia regularly transferred millions of pesos to the Velarde account.

"They were regular contributions and Garcia's name was only one of more than 30 names that contributed since 1998," the source said.

The President's secret accounts are being linked by the House prosecutors to the allegation that he amassed huge amounts during his incumbency that he did not report in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

### Disbarment

The ill-gotten wealth case against the President also sparked charges of professional misconduct against a member of his defense panel, Estelito Mendoza.

Mendoza has been linked to an alleged attempt to cover up Velarde's P500-million trust account in Equitable PCI Bank by drawing up papers that would transfer the account to businessman Jaime Dichaves, a close friend of Mr. Estrada's.

Dichaves signed on Dec. 13 documents transferring the account to him in the law office of Mendoza in Makati, Clarissa Ocampo, a senior vice president of Equitable PCI Bank, testified in the impeachment trial last week.

But Ocampo said the arrangement fell through because the President as Jose Velarde did not send a letter authorizing the transfer of the Jose Velarde account.

Because of the alleged cover-up attempt, several lawyers are calling for Mendoza's disbarment.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines is initiating its own probe to be led by Victor C. Fernandez, chair of the IBP Commission on Bar Discipline.

"Your commission is hereby requested to conduct forthwith a thorough study of the matter, and if warranted, to conduct the necessary investigation. However, the rules of confidentiality should be strictly observed," Arthur Lim, IBP president, said in the memorandum.

The directive came after the IBP received letters from anti-crime advocate Dante Jimenez and lawyer Ernesto Salunat requesting the group to look into Mendoza's role in the alleged cover-up try.

Lim said the IBP panel should also study the possibility of endorsing the two letters to the Supreme Court in case a third party, lawyer Romeo Capulong, filed a case against Mendoza with the high tribunal.

# Trial . . .

(From page A1)

"That is why, I told my wife not to talk about politics anymore," he said.

He admitted that "we cannot prevent arguments from happening in our families."

Earlier, Finance Secretary Jose Pardo revealed that friends and acquaintances had visited his house—sometimes serenading him—to ask him to leave the administration.

Medalla said the pressure usually came from family members from the AB class, who did not even vote for the President.

"Now they are saying, 'Now you see, we were right all along and you are wrong,'" Medalla said.

He said he was staying on because he wanted the impeachment process to go on as mandated by the Constitution.

"For me, we should wait for whatever the verdict is going to be. Then we will unite and rally behind whomever will be the President after the verdict is given by the Senate," he said.

In the meantime, he said, work must go on for members of the President's official family.

"It is not the work of the Cabinet to judge the President. The duty of the Senate is simply to work," he said.

But the party-list group Bayan Muna believes that the President is guilty of the corruption and three other charges leveled against him.

Bayan Muna yesterday vowed to intensify protest actions to press for the President's conviction.

Hundreds of Bayan Muna members, along with other militant groups like the Estrada Resign Movement and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), will stage a rally on the Senate grounds at 1 p.m. today to call for the President's resignation.

Nathaniel Santiago, Bayan Muna secretary general, said a strong mass movement was a decisive factor at this point as senators seemed to be ignoring the "damning evidence" that had so far been presented against the President.

"Most of the senator-judges have already made it clear, through their body language and line of questioning, that their loyalty stays with President Estrada," Santiago said.

"This is why it is understandable for the private prosecutors to start mulling the idea of withdrawing the impeachment complaint," he added.

He maintained that the President was not the only one being tried in the impeachment court but also the Senate and the Supreme Court.

"The people have already judged President Estrada as guilty. If the impeachment court failed them by ruling otherwise, that would be tantamount to pushing them to look for justice elsewhere," Santiago warned.

He also hit a Supreme Court decision prohibiting all militant groups from staging protest actions in front of the senator-judges' houses.

The Bayan official said the ruling ran counter to the constitutional right to free expression and assembly.

Despite the protests and the trial, morale remains high among Cabinet officials, according to Medalla.

"What we are doing now is to think hard on what it is that we should do to raise people's confidence in the government," Medalla said.

He made the statement amid observations that the impeachment trial was causing paralysis in the government.

The operations of Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) have been adversely affected following the terminal leave of Press Secretary Ricardo Puno Jr., who will be running for the Senate in the May elections, according to reporters covering Malacañang.

Members of the Malacañang Press Corps (MPC) noted that not only were press releases issued past deadlines, but acting Press Secretary Michael Toledo was nowhere to be found on Sundays.

Since assuming his post last month, Toledo has kept his cellular phone closed on Sundays, leaving reporters to call the President's relatives, including Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito and San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, for comments on issues.

"With an OPS like this, the President does not need enemies," remarked a reporter of a national newspaper. *With a report from Agnes E. Donato*

# Sin . . .

(From page A1)

At the Vatican City on Saturday, Pope John Paul II turned the handle of the massive Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and offered a highly personal reflection of the Jubilee Year, expressing wonder at all the enthusiasm and just a little regret.

The bronze, roughly 4-meter-high door is opened and closed usually only every 25 years. This Holy Year coincided with the change of millennium, and John Paul II had eagerly looked forward to the event for much of his 22-year-old pontificate as a chance to rejuvenate the faith of the world's 1 billion Catholics.

Some 25 million people made the Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome. So many came that in the last week the Vatican eased its rigid hours, letting people through the doorway late into the night, and on the final day, into the wee hours of Saturday.

"I have often stopped to look at the long queues of pilgrims waiting patiently to go through the Holy Door," the Pope wrote in a letter released Saturday that read much like a diary. "In each of them I tried to imagine the story of a life, made up of joys, worries, sufferings . . ."

"After the enthusiasm of the Jubilee, it is not to a dull everyday routine that we return," John Paul wrote in the 82-page letter addressed to all Catholics.

In an unusual touch, he signed it in public on a little table brought to him on the basilica's steps before some 100,000 people packing St. Peter's Square.

### God's plan

"The missionary mandate accompanies us into the third millennium and urges us to share the enthusiasm of the very first Christians," the Pope wrote, encouraging Catholics to try to shape "history according to God's plan."

Specific challenges, he said, include scientific advances which "must never disregard fundamental ethical requirements."

With the help of an aide, the Pontiff turned the handle to close the door in the basilica's atrium. At one point, he slowly got down on his knees on the hard marble threshold and prayed.

When he sat in a chair, his clasped hands trembled, a symptom of what many said is Parkinson's disease, although the Vatican has never said exactly what ails the Pope.

That the Pope, who now hobbles when he walks and often slurs his speech, made it through nearly daily Holy Year events, was a kind of personal triumph.

During the Mass, John Paul recalled other Holy Year satisfactions, including the jubilation of some 2 million young people who camped out in Rome in summer to be with him and the day he publicly asked pardon for the Church's shortcomings and wrongdoings over its 2,000-year history.

When a Japanese girl in a mint-green kimono brought him gifts during the Mass, he pulled the child toward him to kiss her and chat. As he rode in his Popemobile after the Mass, John Paul's tiredness seemed to fade and he suddenly reached for a baby held up to him from the crowd and kissed the infant.

John Paul described his trip in March to the Holy Land was a "moment of brotherhood and peace, and I like to remember it as one of the most beautiful gifts of the whole Jubilee event."

He also wrote of his "deeply felt desire for a prompt and just solution to the still unresolved problems of the holy places, cherished by Jews, Christians and Muslims together." The Vatican wants the peace process to yield guarantees of access to the region's religious sites.

John Paul had hoped to travel more in the Holy Year, but politics and religious tensions crimped his plans to visit Biblical places.

In the letter, he spoke wistfully of his frustrated desire to open the year's travel with a pilgrimage to Iraq, on the ancient trail of Abraham. Baghdad canceled the plans, saying the trip couldn't be arranged.

John Paul also wanted to go to Greece, but irritations between Orthodox and Roman Catholics have so far prevented such a voyage.

The Pope had called for international organizations and rich countries to ease or forgive Third World debt, and in his letter he indicated he would have liked [illegible] progress toward that goal. *With a report fro[illegible] P*

NUNS and young children attend the Mass at the Manila Cathedral to mark the end of the Jubilee Year celebration. JOAN BONDOC

# Critics say . . .

(From page A1)

The Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership (Clamor) explained that with his "sinking popularity, diminishing mass-base support and fading legitimacy," the President was in desperate need of a "deodorizer."

Angara, Clamor said in a statement, is willing to help prop up a sinking presidency in exchange for "presidential powers."

"With all the presidential powers being given to Angara, the position of executive secretary should no longer be called 'little president' but rather 'real president'," said Dennis Funa, Clamor convenor.

"Angara is now the 'real president' while Estrada is now just 'president in name only.' What else do you call this kind of arrangement? Is this not a simple power grab from a lameduck president?" he lamented.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) expressed alarm over the vast powers to be wielded by Angara, noting the former agriculture chief's "anti-peasant and pro-foreign monopoly capital track record."

KMP chair Rafael Mariano said it was Angara who was responsible for promoting and implementing the full-scale liberalization, deregulation and privatization of the economy.

During his stint as agriculture secretary, his food security program heightened food importation which eventually "killed" local farmers and producers, Mariano said.

Angara, he added, was behind the privatization of the National Food Authority that would result in massive lay-offs.

### Davao City

In Davao City, the Estrada Resign Movement (ERM) said the President had, in effect, conceded that he could no longer run the country efficiently when he gave Angara wide powers.

"So who's the country's President today, is it Angara or Erap? It appears that Mr. Estrada could no longer handle the challenges and the pressures of governance, that's why he granted Angara such vast powers," Joel Virador, a convenor of the ERM in Southern Mindanao, said.

Virador challenged Mr. Estrada to face and admit to the people that he could no longer perform the duties and responsibilities expected of him as President.

"Workers who could no longer perform their jobs, duties and responsibilities well are fired immediately by their employers. Now we are telling Mr. Estrada that we the people, your employer, are terminating you from your job as President," Virador said.

Robinson Montalba, chair of the Promotion of Church People's Response, said that despite Angara's vast powers, his group believed his appointment would hardly make any dent in making the Office of the President open and transparent.

Nor would it address demands for socioeconomic change in the wave of corruption scandals in his administration, he said.

"We need to have a fresh start, the Estrada administration could not simply re-invent itself to regain public confidence because the problem is the very incompetence of Mr. Estrada himself," Montalba said.

### A good choice

In Cebu City, a former Malacañang official said President Estrada made a good choice in appointing Angara but this would not change public perception about venalities in the administration.

Former Deputy Executive Secretary Vicente de la Serna said Angara could be a "deodorizer" in the sense that he was not involved in irregularities.

But he said the problem of the Estrada administration was political leadership, which has been tainted by numerous scandals of graft and corruption.

De la Serna said Angara's appointment might be seen as part of the strategy to mend fences with big businessmen threatened by the President's warning to go against big corporations that did not pay correct taxes.

"If these groups are able to talk to Angara, he being (a) sober and level-headed person, then that could deodorize the perception that the President is anti-big business and anti-elite," he said.

De la Serna resigned from the Cabinet last month after then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora tendered his resignation.

But he voiced doubts if the business community would view Angara's appointment positively.

Angara's assumption as little President, he added, could not divert attention from the trial either because "the proceedings take precedence over other matters, because governance needs a credible leader."

"(Angara) can give sober suggestions to the President which could help his government especially during this time," said De la Serna, a former governor and congressman of Cebu.

But he added the main responsibility of running the government still lay with the President.

"No matter how good the executive secretary is, no matter how good his lawyer or adviser, it still depends on the person if he is receptive to the advice," he said in Cebuano.

### Power play

In Lucena City, the militant Sanlakas scored Angara's appointment, saying what transpired was a "mere power play."

The appointment "does not signify a shift toward reform policies but merely a change in the balance of forces among the factions within the ruling administration," Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas spokesperson, said in a statement.

He added that the new Cabinet faces and appointments were just window-dressing for a rotten regime.

"Angara's declaration that it signals a new beginning for reforms is simply an optimistic front. It is also a barefaced lie when he said that it is in reaction to public demands for reforms," Fortaleza said.

Angelito Banayo, former presidential assistant for political affairs, told radio station dzMM in Manila that Angara's appointment had incurred the ire of outgoing Ambassador Maceda.

Banayo said Maceda resented the manner by which Angara not only got the post of executive secretary, but also managed to get the President to appoint his key men to juicy posts.

"Maceda is not happy about all these, not so much for himself, but for his party," Banayo said of Maceda, a leader of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC). *With reports from Malou Guanzon-Apalisok, PDI Visayas Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Contrasting Erap, Edong work styles incompatible

(From page A1)

Under the terms of understanding between the President and Angara, the latter is empowered to act as overall coordinator for the President on the work of the Cabinet.

But the most important aspect of this delegation of powers is that Angara takes direct control over all the staffs and agencies in the Office of the President, most notably the Presidential Management Staff.

### Consolidation

Angara lost no time in consolidating his coup. He had Ma. Celia Fernandez appointed as PMS chief. Fernandez earlier served as his assistant secretary for legal affairs at the Department of Agriculture.

Angara also had Domingo Panganiban appointed as his replacement as agriculture secretary. Panganiban was his senior undersecretary at the agriculture department.

The PMS not only prepares the Cabinet agenda, but vets appointments [illegible] of the presidential legal counsel, the PMS has the power to screen contracts and programs of government.

Angara wrote his own ticket spelling out the expansion of the powers of the "little president." He submitted to Mr. Estrada a draft executive order defining his powers and reflecting the President's wish to be relieved of the tasks of the day-to-day running of government so he could concentrate on two issues he likes best—poverty and law and order.

In practical terms and in the face of the impeachment trial, the President would be free to campaign among the poor, giving them goodies to maintain their support, and to play "cops and robbers."

### Distaste for details

His ceding of powers to Angara also reflects the President's distaste for operational details.

Angara's appointment represents his attempt to put back institutions and systems in running the Executive Office. It is also an effort to insulate the government from the fallout of the impeachment trial by separating government from political developments.

Additionally, it is an attempt to demonstrate that the administration is determined to initiate reforms to defuse the crisis of confidence engulfing the Estrada presidency.

It is problematic whether the expansion of the powers of Angara's can insulate the government from the impeachment crisis. It is even more uncertain whether Angara can restore confidence in the Estrada presidency, until the crisis is resolved, and bring back the confidence of the business community, both domestic and international.

It would, therefore, appear that the ceding of sweeping executive powers to Angara could amount to no more than a cosmetic paint, unless the crisis is resolved by the impeachment trial and ultimately by the people in the streets.

### Free hand

To appreciate the extent of the President's yielding of executive powers, the President has given Angara a free hand in introducing management concepts in running the government based on technocratic approaches.

These approaches clash sharply with the President's own style of running the country—a very personalistic approach driven by instincts, favoritism, cronyism and even lack of thorough study of economic project proposals. This personalistic approach will now be replaced.

Since these styles are mutually antagonistic, tensions are expected to arise between the President and Angara. And there's a problem of how long their arrangement will hold.

Under Angara's terms of reference, he is expected to do away entirely with backroom deals, which were the source of scandals of the administration during its first two and a half years in office.

Angara's expanded powers, however, make him responsible for breaking the paralysis of government into which it has been plunged by the crisis and by Mr. Estrada's own lo[illegible] control of government.

Angara needs more than just technocratic purpose and efficiency to be able to regain the momentum for the government. He lacks the political environment in which there is public trust in the government.

### Maceda out

Angara's accession signals the shunting from the center of power of Ambassador to Washington Ernesto Maceda. He is the first casualty in the Angara coup. Both have been rivals.

Maceda took a leave from his post in Washington to volunteer his services to help bail out Mr. Estrada in the impeachment trial. He wanted a Cabinet post.

His first target was the job of executive secretary, the second, the agriculture department, and the bottom line was to be the head of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

While he lobbied, Maceda was given the interim job of presidential spokesperson on the impeachment trial. In that capacity, he created more enemies for the President and drew the hostility of officials whose functions he overlapped.

The appointment of Angara was the signal that Maceda was becoming a political liability in Manila, and so he had to pack his bags to return to Washington.

### Biggest obstacle

But the biggest obstacle to Angara's effectiveness is the conceptual clash of running government between the personalistic President and the systems-oriented Angara.

This is why I consider their entente cordiale fragile. It is based on two incompatible principles of running a government.

This is why Angara extracted from the President a detailed terms of reference of their working relationship so he can nail him to his commitment for reforms.

## WORLD MATCH PLAY

# Stricker beats Fulke

MELBOURNE, Australia—Not even eligible for golf's Match Play Championship three weeks ago, Steve Stricker completed an unlikely journey with a gutsy performance Sunday to defeat Pierre Fulke of Sweden.

Stricker, No. 90 in the world ranking and the 55th seed in a 64-man field missing Tiger Woods and a slew of other top names, never trailed in the 36-hole match and survived a grueling day at Metropolitan Golf Club when Fulke's putter betrayed him.

Stricker, who won US$1 million, closed out the match on the 35th hole, 2 and 1, when the 29-year-old Swede failed to save par from the bunker.

It was Stricker's first victory in four years, and the prize money might be enough to get him into the Masters.

Stricker hugged his caddie, a buddy from Wisconsin, and choked back tears as he realized how far he had come in one lucrative week.

"I just figured I would win a couple of matches and get ready for the West Coast," Stricker said. "But lo and behold, I started feeling good about my game. I was scrambling really well, and my attitude and thinking was pretty sharp."

As he talked about his four-year victory drought, Stricker started crying.

"Excuse me ... this means a lot," he said, "It's just beyond my expectations,".

The field was the weakest of the seven official World Golf Championship events to date, as Woods, David Duval, Phil Mickelson and top Europeans like Colin Montgomerie decided against a long trip to Australia so close to the holidays.

Stricker could not afford to skip out on a chance to win a million, and he made the most of his opportunity.

He became the lowest seed to win the Accenture Match Play Championship in the three-year history of the event, but so fickle is the format that the highest seed to ever win was Darren Clarke last year at No. 19.

Even if the top stars were at Metropolitan, Stricker still might have walked off a winner. He putted as well as Woods did in winning the US Open at Pebble Beach, making 13 of 18 putts from between 4 and 20 feet to either win or—in many cases—halve the hole.

Fulke, who won US$500,000 and all but clinched a spot on the Ryder Cup team for Europe, likely will think back on all the chances he squandered over the final 18 holes. Fulke beat Ernie Els, 2 and 1, Saturday.

Two-down to start the second 18, he missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the sixth with a chance to trim the lead. The Swede, one of the top putters on the European tour, missed another 4-foot birdie try on the 12th that would have squared the match. He also missed a 12-foot putt on the 14th as Stricker hung on for dear life.

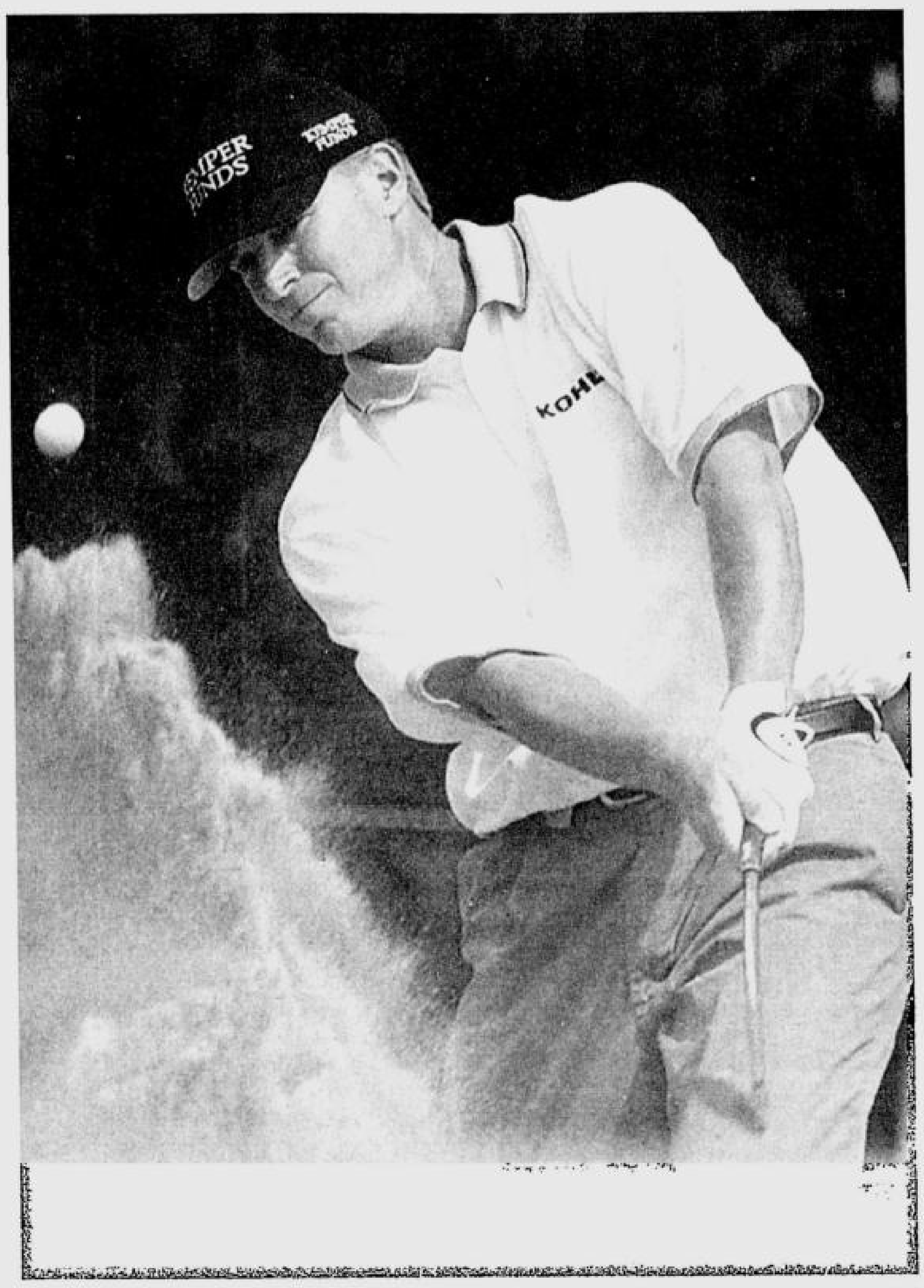
Stricker, who made a 20-foot par putt on the 11th to protect his lead, saved par from the bunker on the 16th with a slick, hard-breaking 4-foot putt.

After so many chances, Fulke finally crumbled when he could least afford it, pulling a 4-iron into the bunker and missing the 15-foot putt.

Stricker took the lead in the morning round on the 15th hole when Fulke ran into bunker problems, and the 33-year-old never trailed again.

In the consolation match, Toru Taniguchi won 4 and 3 against a lethargic and disinterested Els to earn US$400,000 for third place, and world ranking points that could go a long way toward the Japanese player getting into the Masters.

*AP*


STRICKER plays out of a bunker during his final duel with Fulke.
REUTERS

# National Amateur Golf 1st leg set Jan. 23-26

IN A bid to finally put a credible national ranking and handicapping system in place, the National Golf Association of the Philippines is joining hands with the local distributor of Titleist and Footjoy in staging the first-ever National Amateur Golf Circuit starting this month.

The seven-leg circuit will offer high-level competitions in some of the country's most exclusive courses for male and female players belonging to various handicap categories.

Hosting the first leg on Jan. 23-26 is the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands courses.

The other legs are Feb. 20-23—Riviera Golf and Country Club; Mar. 20-23—Valley Golf & Country Club; April 24-27—Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club; May 15-18—Orchard Golf and Country Club; June 19-22—To be announced and July 17-20—Canlubang Golf and Country Club

NGAP president Rod Feliciano and Christopher Tang, president of Dynamic Sports Corp. which is the exclusive Philippine distributor of Titleist and Footjoy products, recently signed the Memorandum of Agreement for the joint undertaking.

"This is a multi-faceted project which will enable us to boost the handicapping system and at the same time develop a deeper pool of talents for our international campaigns," said Feliciano.

For his part, Tang said that "Titleist and Footjoy are one with the NGAP in its campaign for the promotion of amateur golf in the country."

Heading the organizing body is Iggy Clavecilla, chair of the NGAP tournament committee, and Andy Dumlao as tournament director.

The men's championship for players with handicap indecees of 0-4.4 will be for 72 holes, the championship ladies event (0-9.4) will be for holes while Group I (0-4.4), Group II (4.5-10.4), Group III (10.5-19.4), Group IV (19.5 and above) and ladies (9.5 and above) will be for 36 holes.

# Ladies Open at Wack Wack

NINETY players from eight countries are seeing action in the 2001 Philippine Ladies Amateur Open golf championship starting on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

For the first time in a long, long while, the Ladies Open will be moving out of its old home, the Manila Golf Club, and will be held at the fabled east course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong.

PLDT is the major sponsor of the 2001 Open. Other sponsors are the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Dunkin Donuts, Philhealth (Calciumade), Alexis, Nice Shot, Sentry, Bayer, Phil Duplicators and Citibank.

Represented in the event won last year by Sri Lankan Thuhachini Selvaratnam are the countries of Australia, Hong Kong, England, Korea, Macau, New Zealand, Taiwan and host Philippines.

Ushering in the three-day championships is the ceremonial tee-offs tomorrow by Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines; Richie Garcia, Philippine Sports Commissioner, Gina Tuason, president of the organizing Women's Golf Association of the Philippines and Ben Abalos, president of the host club.

# Ucap derby bets submission on

THE SUBMISSION of entries to the "2nd Ucap Cobra/JBB Blue Blade Balbina 6-Cock Derby" will be held today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

To be hosted by the Cobra Group and engineer Sonny Lagon, the event fires off Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 9 and 11, with Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc. as sponsors

Aside from the Ucap members, also seeing action are guest participants bannered by Boy Cuadra and Otic Geroso of Negros (two entries), Mayor Jessie Vicco, Robert So, Romy Pamatmat, Argem Coliseum, Danny Ty, Boy "Lechon" de Roca, Tonette Luzurriaga and Dennis Roldan, among others

This event will be the second of 13 cockfests which will serve as basis in selecting the Ucap Cocker of the Year 2000-2001. Pampanga's Jet Fernando and Ramon Manzanares (San Pedro GP Eagle) currently lead the race with 7.5 points.

Meanwhile, five of the nine Americans seeing action in the "Mandaluyong Coliseum 9-Cock International Derby" are expected to arrive on Jan. 20. They are Chuck Berry of Oklahoma, Paul Sparks of Alabama, Bobby Jones of Texoma Game Club (Texas), Gregg Ayroso of California and Travis Clark of Stone Country, Missouri.

## SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANRIQUE

**BASKETBALL:** U.S. NCAA – Tulane Green Wave vs UAB Blazers at 10:30 a.m. and Wake Forest Demon Deacons vs North Carolina Tar Heels at 4:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

15th ABC Championship for Junior Women 2000 Highlights at 2:30 p.m. on Star Sports

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL:** Super Bowl XIV Highlights - Pittsburgh Steelers vs LA Rams at 4 p.m. (r) on ESPN

NFL Playoffs (AFC) at 10 p.m. (delayed) on ESPN

# Filipino driver sparkles

THE LAND Cruisers Club of the Philippines and outlast Battery Station lauded the successful campaign of top driver Noel Bartolome in the "Rainforest International Offroad Challenge 2000" in Malaysia recently.

Land Cruiser Club president Elbert Tiu said Bartolome's creditable performance in the two-week long international driving competition "clearly demonstrates the Filipinos' innate skills in off-road driving."

Tiu said Bartolome's achievements is remarkable considering that it was the first time that he participated in the annual competition which attracted several top drivers from the United States, Europe and Australia.

"We're very happy about the results of Noel's participation. It was a big achievement for him and the country," said Tiu.

Bernadette Pua, general manager of JVSP Marketing, also commended Bartolome for his "gallant effort to bring honors to the country against world-class opposition."

Pua reiterated her company's all-out support to the Land Cruiser Club and Bartolome, who uses Outlast Battery on and off the road.

She also welcomed Bartolome's endorsement of Outlast's all-weather car battery, which is assembled locally from 100 percent high grade imported materials.

# W'lifting official hits sports body

By June Navarro

JAIME Sebastian, the Southeast Asian Games top weightoifter in the '70s and '80s, yesterday slammed the top brass of the Philippine Olympic Committee for bringing politics into the commotion of Philippine Weightlifting Association officials.

Sebastian, national coach of the men's weightlifting team, said his athletes are blatantly affected by the decision of the POC executive board to suspend its support to the PWA.

Chair Carlos Tuason earlier stated that the PSC would only support associations, including its officials, recognized by the POC.

The POC executive board decided Friday to hold off its support to the PWA pending investigation of the fact-finding committee and resolution of the Olympic body. The POC investigative committee has until Dec. 17 to submit its findings.

Though the athletes continue to receive their monthly stipends, Sebastian said his team, composed of seven national athletes, is heavily bothered by what is happening in their national sports association.

"We can't help it. The quarrel of our officials has affected the training of the athletes made worse by the POC's decision," Sebastian told the INQUIRER.

The 53-year-old Sebastian had a total of 24 gold medals in eight SEA Games he joined in a span of almost two decades from 1974 to the late '80s, a feat unequalled in the region to date.

PWA president Rodones Sicat has branded the POC's decision as grossly unfair, saying the weightlifting imbroglio has yet to be settled within their association.

# Nat'l triathlon up

A BATTLE royale is expected in the club competition of the National Triathlon Trials and 2nd Inter-Club Championship on Jan. 14 in Dumaguete City.

The event is organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) in cooperation with the Dumaguete City Millennium Committee and the City Government of Dumaguete.

Defending champion Club Team Velocity-Army faces tough competition from San Pedro Team (Laguna), Tri-Huevos (Cebu), Unified Triathlon Association (Cebu), Iron Piglets (Quezon City) and the Manila Triathlon Club. The right to represent the country in the Macau International Triathlon in September will be awarded to the champion club.

The event is sponsored by Speedo, Negros Navigation, Asia Pacific Insulation, Viva Natural Spring Water, Philippine Sports Commission, and the POC Sports For All Commission.

Entry fee for biathlon clubs is P1,600 (non-refundable). Registration forms are now available at the TRAP office at Room 202, Building Alpha, Philsports Complex, Pasig City (telephone: 0919-5807512, 0912-3887204, 09174217913 and 0917-9116842); POC-NSA Center, RMSC, P. Ocampo Street, Manila (522-4896~; the Office of the Mayor, Dumaguete City (c/o Madonna 035-4226336) and in all Speedo Concept Stores.

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# Jun Montano remembered

## CLEAN LIVING

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

WHEN the Philippine Sportswriters Association holds its annual PSA Awards Night on Jan. 18 at the Holiday Inn, Justiniano Montano Jr. will be one of the posthumous awardees. It is a fitting tribute to Montano, a founding father and first elected president of the World Boxing Council, the most prestigious international organization for professional boxing today. Montano died in August 1999 at age 63 in St. Louis, Missouri, after a lingering illness.

This will mark the second time that Montano, a proud son of Cavite, will be honored by the association. While still alive (and during my terms as PSA president in 1996), Montano and his close friend lawyer Rudy Salud were cited by the sportswriting fraternity for their "sterling achievements as officials of the WBC in the 1960s." The peerless partners were first highest elected officers of the council; Montano as WBC president in 1964 and reelected in 1966 and Salud as secretary general and chair of the powerful WBC Championships and Ratings Committee.

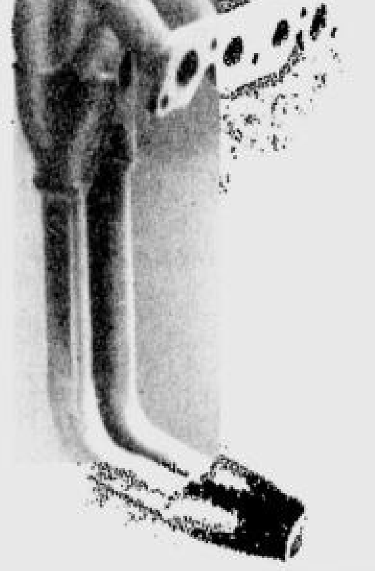
Montano was bed-ridden for nearly two months before he passed away last August. Early in 1997, Montano underwent a seven-bypass heart surgery in a St. Louis hospital. Before that life-threatening operation, he suffered a mild heart attack and partially-lost vision in his left eye.

Born to a family with a long history of resisting oppression, Jun Montano's father, Justiniano Montano Sr. was a fearless senator and Cavite congressman. The elder Montano sought the impeachment in 1973 of then President Ferdinand Marcos, who subsequently ordered the elder Montano" arrest.

"Marcos hated my father so much," Jun Montano recalled during an interview shortly before he died. "But my old man escaped being arrested because he was in Europe attending a parliamentary meeting." Like many others who hated martial law, Montano Sr. choose to live in exile.

Over in Manila, Jun Montano, who had served as Games and Amusements Board chair at 24, the youngest ever in GAB history, was under surveillance. But he was able to elude arrest in the mid-1970s when he joined a Philippine delegation to a Lions International convention in Honolulu. Having set foot in the United States, Jun Montano and his wife Ely and their children settle in the St. Louis area in Missouri, where he became a successful real estate broker.

Montano gained international prominence as WBC president. During his memorable term, he produced several Filipino world champions, including the immortal Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, Ben Villaflor, Rene Barrientos, Pedro Adigue, Roberto Cruz, Erbito Salavarria and Bernabe Villacampo. It was also during his term that he introduced the four-strand ring ropes, replacing the three-strand ropes which he deemed unsafe following the death of world welterweight champion Benny Kid Paret of Cuba in 1962.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# Aquino stays with Sta. Lucia Realty

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**MARLOU Aquino yesterday signed a new contract with the Sta. Lucia Realty for five years, according to coach Norman Black.**

Aquino's signing ended speculations about a high-profile rigodon of players and effectively shut the door on Tanduay Gold and Mobiline which both took interest on the 6-foot-9 slotman.

"I'm very happy with the development," said Black. "He (Aquino) said he's happy with the team and with the system."

Black didn't discuss the details of the contract renewal although Aquino was already getting the maximum P500,000 salary per month under his old contract.

Black said the Realtors can now prepare for the 2001 season and that they will use their first round draft right to get a forward to complement Aquino and Dennis Espino inside.

Aquino was instrumental in Sta. Lucia's first-ever championship appearance last season but yielded the Commissioner's Cup to San Miguel Beer.

AQUINO

Meanwhile, top PBA officials, legal counsel Butch Cleofe and marketing director Lito Anzures, are reportedly on the way out, according to sources.

However, commissioner Jun Bernardino told the INQUIRER that they haven't resigned yet but gave no details about the issue.

Cleofe and Anzures are said to be pressured by the board of governors, who was not happy with the way they handled the brouhaha caused by the hiring of fake Fil-American players and dip in the gate attendance.

The PBA board will hold a meeting on Jan. 10 during which they are expected to map out plans for the league this year, including the its leadership.

In other developments, it's not over yet with Kenneth Duremdes and Alaska Milk as it backtracked in its proposed contract with Duremdes, putting two important clauses as "conditional."

Duremdes' agent Danny Espiritu said Alaska management approved all seven clauses five days ago before manager Joaqui Trillo called up yesterday to say that two of them are conditional.

Espiritu refused to discuss what the clauses were about although they were included in the open offer sheet tendered by Mobiline. He added that Duremdes can still accommodate offers from other teams.

---

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball League will hold the premiere night of the blockbuster movie "Remember the Titans" on Jan. 15 in a Sports-Celebrity Screening at Cinema 3 of SM megamall.

# Adducul is skipper

By Roy Luarca

THE LONG lull of the Metropolitan Basketball Association has turned out to be a blessing for the Philippine men's team.

Taking advantage of the pre-season break, MBA superstars led by Manila's Romel Adducul and Negros' John Ferriols heeded the patriotic call and have reported for duty to national head coach Boyzie Zamar since the tryouts started Monday.

"I'm overwhelmed by the players' response. They are willing to sacrifice time and money to be with the national team," said Zamar, who has been conducting the tryouts at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The 6-foot-6 Adducul, who owns the sole distinction of representing the Philippines in the ABC All-Stars for four straight years, has been designated skipper of the team tasked to defend the title in the Southeast Asia Basketball Association and the Southeast Asian Games.

Other big names who gamely joined the amateur standouts were Cebu's Homer Se, Negros' Johnedel Cardel and Ruben de la Rosa, Manila's Peter Martin, Cagayan de Oro's Peter Naron and Pampanga's Junel Mendiola.

San Juan's Chris Calaguio, Omanzie Rodriguez and Chito Victolero, Laguna's Biboy Simon, Negros' Romy dela Rosa, Cebu's Stephen Padilla and Batangas' Eddie Laure have also sent word that they would appear in today's 6-10 p.m. tryouts

## *Espinosa loses*

LAS VEGAS—Hometown attraction Augie Sanchez stopped former two-time champion Luisito Espinosa in the fourth round in his first fight Saturday night since losing a title bid against Naseem Hamed.

Sanchez started slowly but began landing effectively late in the second round. His punches got even crisper in the third round, when he dropped Espinosa with a right hand midway through the round.

In the main fight, Joel Casamayor defended his WBA super featherweight title for the fourth time by stopping Robert Garcia in the ninth round.

Espinosa got back up and survived a flurry of head punches at the bell, but it was clear by then he wasn't going to last long. *AP*

54 POINTS

# Iverson lifts 76ers

CLEVELAND—Allen Iverson keeps taking his game to new heights and carrying the Philadelphia 76ers along with him.

One night after scoring 41 points in a Philadelphia rout of Seattle, Iverson poured in a career-best 54 points—more than half his team's total—in a 107-103 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday as the 76ers improved to an NBA-best 24-8.

Iverson hit 20-of-30 shots from the field and 10-of-13 from the free-throw line for his third career 50-point game and second at Cleveland's Gund Arena.

"When your jumper is on, the basket seems like an ocean and the basketball seems like a rock," Iverson said. "That is the way it felt tonight."

Iverson scored Philadelphia's first 13 points of the third quarter on three jumpers, a 3-pointer, a three-point play and a free throw.

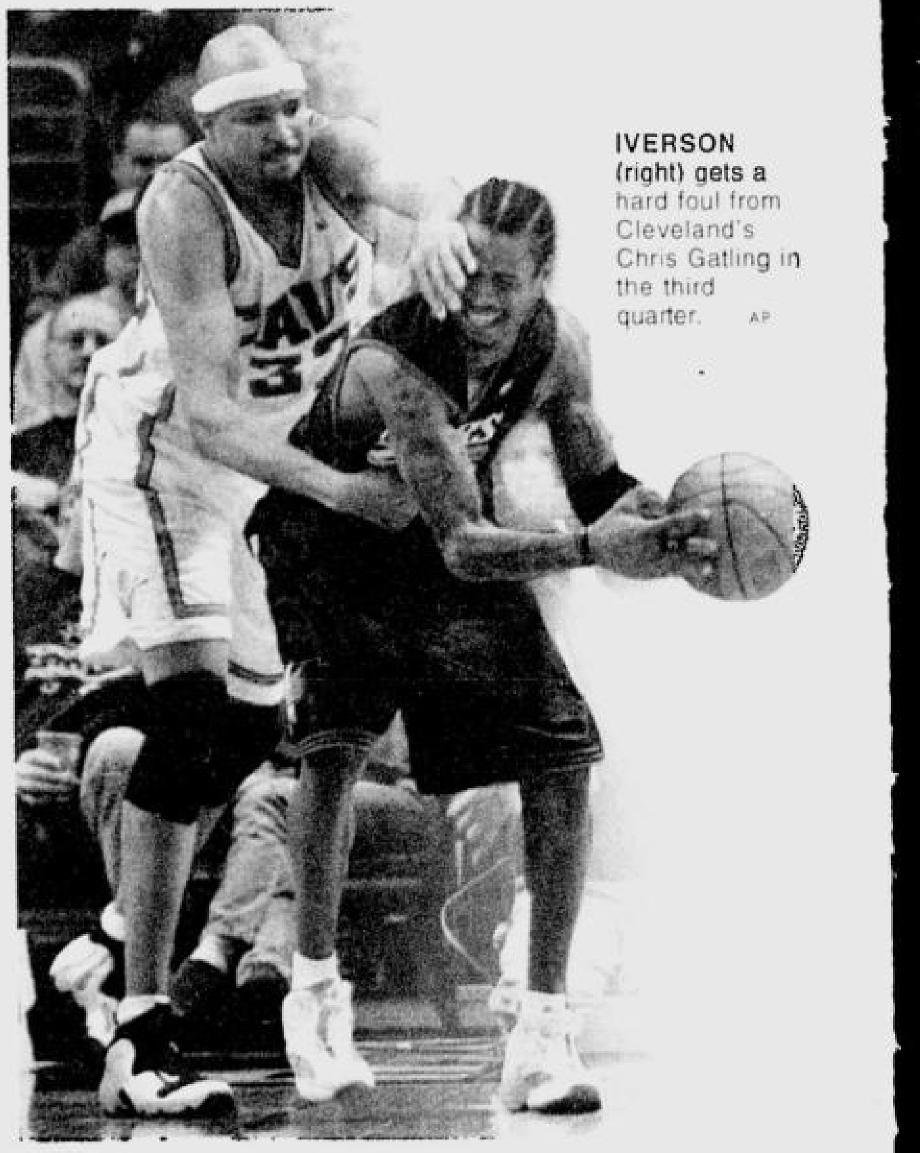
"He was amazing," Sixers coach Larry Brown said. "He shot the ball as well as you can shoot it because there weren't a lot of easy shots. People had a hand in his face."

Aaron McKie chipped in 20 points and nine assists and Theo Ratliff added 12 points, nine rebounds and blocked eight shots for Philadelphia, which extended its winning streak to six games with its eighth straight road win.

Despite Iverson's Herculean effort, the Cavaliers kept it close. Cleveland closed within 103-99 on a three-point play by Lamond Murray but could not get any closer.

Andre Miller had 22 points and 14 assists and Clarence Weatherspoon added 19 points and 16 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who have lost three in a row and eight of nine following a six-game winning streak *Reuters*

**Complete Results:** Dallas 103, Washington 85; Atlanta 83, Orlando 82; Philadelphia 107, Cleveland 103; Miami 112, Boston 86; New Jersey 97, Golden State 92; Utah 99, Houston 97; San Antonio 108, Detroit 101. *AFP*


IVERSON (right) gets a hard foul from Cleveland's Chris Gatling in the third quarter. AP

# Ritualo to spearhead Welcoat squad anew

By Dennis Eroa

WELCOAT's closest pursuers are assured of one more year of terrible headache.

This materialized as team owners Raymond Yu and Terry Que successfully re-signed swingman Florendo 'Ren-Ren' Ritualo Jr. to a one-year contract.

The 21-year-old Ritualo, a cinch to win the PSA amateur basketball player of the year award, is expected to get the maximum PBL salary of P50,000 monthly excluding bonuses. He played a crucial role in the Paintmasters' last three championships aside from boosting La Salle to the UAAP grand slam.

"It's not just about money. Welcoat has taken good care of Ren Ren's well-being. My son enjoys playing with Welcoat and that's the most important thing. I would like to thank Raymond and Terry and Mrs Margaret Yu for their concern," said Ren Ren mother Baby, who personally handled the negotiations.

A graduating psychology major, the 6-foot-1 Ritualo did not join this year's draft due to his studies. Welcoat is bidding to join the PBA next year and Ritualo's presence assured the Paintmasters of a take-charge guy.

With his shooting hands, Ritualo, son of former Great Taste Coffee center-forward Florendo Sr., creates huge problem for the defense. The young Ritualo is a many-time member of PBL and UAAP mythical teams.

"He's deadly," said Shark mentor Leo Austria."Ren Ren has the tendency to start slow and finish big."

Blu Sun Power Nat Canson said Ritualo moves excellently without the ball."Thus he is almost unstoppable. He's going to get the ball period. And when he gets it, the problem starts," Canson said.

Ritualo and slotman Yancy de Ocampo are credited for Welcoat's domination of the PBL. With the 6-foot-8 De Ocampo ruling the boards and Ritualo shooting the lights out of the Makati Coliseum, Welcoat has become the PBL's leading squad.

Que added that Welcoat had already reached agreements with burly playmaker Eugene Tan, Celino Cruz and NCAA MVP Jojo Manalo.

"They'll continue playing with us," said Que. He added that he is expecting De Ocampo, Derick Canlas and Ryan Pamintuan to renew their contract by the end of this month.

# Vikings swamp Saints

MINNEAPOLIS—The Minnesota Vikings brought out the big guns Saturday and they blew away the New Orleans Saints.

Displaying the firepower that made them the second-highest scoring team in the National Football Conference, Minnesota advanced to the conference championship game with a 34-16 rout. Randy Moss caught two touchdown passes and Cris Carter added one from Daunte Culpepper, who showed no signs of a sprained ankle that limited him in the Vikings' three-game slide to end the regular season.

Robert Smith, the other star of Minnesota's dynamic offense, had a 2-yard TD run as the Vikings (12-5) moved on. They will play the winner of Sunday's Philadelphia-New York Giants game for a spot in the Super Bowl. *AP*

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## No more mikes, John O

FOLLOWING Senator-Judge John Osmeña's complaint last week that a GMA 7 cameraman's microphone might be used to "spy" on the legislators, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel on Saturday ruled that mikes or hidden cameras cannot be used in the impeachment trial hall without his permission.

# METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

## Fugitive Koreans flushed out

IMMIGRATION agents on Dec. 28 arrested Koreans Hae Kuk Shin and Kum Ji Park in a house in Better Living, Parañaque, where they had been staying since their arrival in the country in that same month. The Korean embassy confirmed that the two men were wanted back home for having embezzled more than US$500 million in 1993.

*Gerald G. Lacuarta*

# Immigration tightens watch for Iranians

By TJ Burgonio

**MANY Iranians are expected to arrive in the country this month, according to intelligence reports, and immigration authorities are keeping a close watch for those who would try to enter the country using bogus European passports.**

On Saturday, two Iranians tried to enter the country but they were found holding false European travel documents.

Last Wednesday, another Iranian tried to come in as a Dutch national but his fake moustache gave him away.

Immigration officer Rudy David said Gill Gerald Josue and Julien Claude Bernard Bouget, who presented Dutch and French passports, were immediately sent on a flight back to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

IMMIGRATION/A18

BLESSING the blasted site at the LRT Blumentritt station, one of the parts hit by the Dec 30 explosions, "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes, like the immigration authorities, hopes to stop the violence.

ERIK ARAZAS

# Lahar land might become dumpsite, expert warns

BY TONETTE OREJAS
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

A JAPANESE agriculturist warned against the dumping of garbage in deserted villages in the lahar-laden parts of Porac, Pampanga.

Masakuni Ishikawa, director of the Manila-based Asian Center for Cultural Exchange, said the villages, which have been deserted after Mt. Pinatubo's eruption in 1991, have been used as garbage dumps for the last five years.

Ishikawa made the warning after about 200 residents of Barangay Santa Catalina in Minalin town prevented a Korean contractor from unloading 26 truckloads of garbage from Caloocan City, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela City on Friday.

Tons of garbage carried by the trucks were supposed to be dumped in a five-hectare private lot in Sta. Catalina. Drivers of a Korean-owned garbage disposal company thought there were no people living in the village, which lies south of the lahar-buried Bacolor town.

Ishikawa, whose group is helping farmers rehabilitate lahar-covered farms in Barangay Mitla in Porac, said the vigilance of residents and local officials showed that similar plans could be stopped.

He said the dumping of Metro Manila wastes in parts of Central Luzon, just north of the country's capital, was very possible after the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) closed the San Mateo Sanitary landfill in Rizal province on Dec. 31.

Barangays Mancatian and five other villages near the Porac-Gumain River, which government volcanologists still consider an active lahar channel, remain largely deserted, making these easy targets for dumping waste.

In Porac, Ishikawa said, garbage was easily hidden from public view after the payloaders of quarry operators covered the trash with lahar.

Still, motorists traveling through the Porac-Angeles road see mounds of garbage almost every morning, Ishikawa said.

As lahar flows through the Porac-Gumain frequently change course, and strong rains affect the area from May through November, trash is washed downstream, compounding the clogging of waterways in several towns in Pampanga's second and fourth districts, Ishikawa said.

Sen. Loren Legarda, vice chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources and author and principal sponsor of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, also warned that citizen's groups that are closely watching the developments in Semirara Island in Antique reported leachate spilling from barges from Manila.

Legarda said that "when waste is loaded onto open barges and transported across many miles of open sea over a 20-hour period, there is great probability that the waste will spill or leach, causing the discharge of pollutive substances that will endanger both marine and coastal life."

"That area contains many beautiful islands and long stretches of beaches that we Antiqueños want to protect," she added.

Two barges yesterday arrived in Antique from Pier 18 in North Harbor, carrying tons of waste from Metro Manila. The barges cannot be unloaded due to a 20-day temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by an Antique court.

Legarda called on the Coast Guard, which is tasked to protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, to patrol the waters around Semirara.

The Presidential Committee for Flagship Projects approved the proposal of DM Consunji

LAHAR/A18

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Makina mo, Malakas ang Takbo.

Best for Japanese Diesel engines.

# Headless man found in jeep

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE are puzzled over the death of a 35-year-old pedicab driver whose decapitated body was found inside a jeepney in Sampaloc, Manila early yesterday morning.

Members of the Western Police District have not recovered the head of Joselito Degamo, a resident of Legarda Street, Sampaloc.

SPO1 Edgardo Ko of the WPD Homicide Division said an unidentified passerby found Degamo's headless body inside a jeepney parked under the Legarda overpass at about 1:30 a.m. yesterday.

A certain Ronnie Alcober told police he was at a nearby compound when he heard a commotion inside the jeepney.

About 30 minutes later, the headless body was found.

The compound is about 10 meters from the jeepney, where Degamo intended to sleep that morning.

Alcober told police he ignored the commotion thinking that Degamo might be quarreling with his wife.

When police arrived minutes later, they saw a lot of blood in the back of the vehicle.

The victim was identified by his relatives Ronila Lazaro and Renato Ortilla through his clothes, police said. Degamo was wearing an orange and blue long-sleeved shirt and denim pants.

# Young man 'in love' kills self

A YOUNG man, who was said to be madly in love with a girl he had not met, plunged to his death from the sixth floor of a building in Sampaloc, Manila on Saturday, police said.

Rolando Veniegas, 17, a stay-in worker of Maranatha Christian Academy at the corner of Ibarra and Makiling streets in Sampaloc, died at about 1 p.m. Saturday, police said.

He sustained multiple fractures all over the body after he jumped from the sixth floor of the Maranatha building, which was under construction, police records showed.

Veniegas had been working at the construction site for seven months.

His fellow laborers told police that Veniegas might had been suffering from a mental illness. They claimed he was in love with a girl he had not yet seen.

The workers said they were chatting on the sixth floor of the building when Veniegas suddenly jumped to his death.

Members of the Western Police District homicide division are still trying to determine what really drove the young man to kill himself.

*Christian V. Esguerra*

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, January 8, 2001
Baptism of the Lord

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st Reading:** | **Is 42:1-4, 6-7** |
| **2nd Reading:** | **Tit 2:11-14; 3-4-7** |
| **Gospel:** | **Lk 3:15-16, 21-22** |

The people were wondering about John's identity, "Could he be the Messiah?" Then John answered them, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is coming will do much more: he will baptize you with Holy Spirit and fire. As for me, I am not worthy to untie his sandal. He comes with a winnowing fan to clear his threshing floor and gather the grain into his barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out."

With these and many other words John announced the Good News to the people until Herod had him put in prison. For John reproached Herod for living with Herodias, his brother's wife, and for his evil deeds. Then Herod added another crime to all the rest he had committed: he put John in prison.

Now, with all the people who came to be baptized, Jesus too was baptized. Then, while he was praying, the heavens opened: the Holy Spirit came down upon him in the bodily form of a dove and a voice from heaven was heard, You are my Son, this day I have begotten you.

**Commentary:**

*Christmas season ends with the feast of the Baptism of Jesus. The Spirit and the Father give testimony to his being the Messiah, the much awaited one from all time. But bible scholars tell us however that everything must have happened in a much simpler way. Jesus was probably baptized together with the people baptized each day by John. What this event is probably telling us is the moment when Jesus began his vocation and his prophetic ministry. Until then, he had lived a quiet life in Nazareth. His public ministry begins now. We must be watchful of what Jesus will do or tell us from now on. He is the living Word of God.*

***Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret***

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—**Co-principal by reason of conspiracy**—To hold an accused liable as co-principal by reason of conspiracy, he must be shown to have performed an overt act in pursuance of or furtherance of the conspiracy, although the acts performed might have been distinct and separate. This overt act may consist of active participation in the actual commission of the crime itself or it may consist of moral assistance to his co-conspirators by being present at the time of the commission of the crime, or by exerting a moral ascendance over the other co-conspirators by moving them to execute or implement the criminal plan. Once conspiracy is established, all the conspirators are answerable as co-principals regardless of their degree of participation, for in the contemplation of the law, the act of one becomes the act of all. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Ponce, G,R. No. 126254, September 29, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

# 4 nabbed with fake passports

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has filed criminal charges against four people arrested by immigration authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for carrying fake Philippine passports.

Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez identified the four as Romeo Mallari Aquino, Rowena Reyes Rosas, Cecilia Catabay and Restie Camading, all Filipinos.

They were charged with violating the Philippine Passport Act and with falsifying public documents.

Investigation showed that when Aquino tried to leave the country for the US, he used a tampered US passport issued to one Loreto Martinez Pastor.

Immigration agents at the airport prevented Aquino from leaving when they discovered that he substituted his own photograph for the original photograph in the real passport.

Rosas was stopped on Dec. 20, 1998 before she could leave for Chicago. She was found carrying two tampered Philippine passports that were issued to other persons.

A check with the US Embassy showed that the US visa stamped on the passports were fake as these were not issued to either Rosas or the persons named in the passports.

Catabay was stopped at the Naia on Feb. 7, 2000 after she was caught using a fake Philippine passport in trying to leave the country for Italy.

Investigation also revealed that Camading was refused entry in South Korea in December 1999 for carrying questionable travel documents.

Rodriguez hailed the justice department for its swift action in filing the charges against the suspects.

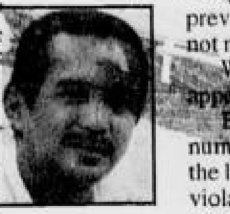
He said "it would deter those who intend to travel and work abroad from using fake travel papers when leaving the country."

*Gerald G. Lacuarta*

# Find a synonym for Erap

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*



(NEW & OLD. The image of the Black Nazarene, the newer, younger one, will again be borne and mobbed by a boiling multitude in a choked procession highlighting the Quiapo district fiesta tomorrow. For most city residents, who will also pray and pay homage to the centuries-old Black Nazarene at the main altar of the Quiapo Church, the Quiapo fiesta officially ends the Christmas season...Sen. Robert Jaworski, in a phone talk over the weekend, has assured that whatever he does and decides on in the ongoing Erap Estrada Impeachment trial will be for the good of our "badly battered" Motherland... A new street poll of friends and neighbors bared that the *masa* is also worried over the strange behavior of Sen. Miriam Santiago, mainly her latest outburst that resulted in the ouster from the Senate hall of three spectators perceived to be against the Estrada administration. One tabloid (was it Bulgar?) headlined a popular perception claiming that the outspoken lady senator could've lost her marbles: Miriam Nagalit kay Roco, Sinumpong!... A note passed on by Peter Lee of the Hong Kong Tea House offers the latest text message: Atty. Estelito Mendoza and Sen. Miriam Santiago go to the same hairdresser. Believe it or not.)

* * *

**HOW would the Erap Impeachment telenovela end?**

**A couple of comely mass-com students from St. Paul's College came to my place on Friday for an interview that would help them in their school requirements.**

**They asked about the thrust of the INQUIRER, mainly in its coverage of the Erap Estrada government style and love affairs.**

**I told them that if critics had perceived the INQUIRER to be biased, it's because the paper is solidly pro-People.**

**Yes, we are here to report and inform, but we find it our main role and duty to help educate the public.**

**A concerned, dedicated newspaper also strives to open the eyes of the people in an effort to help change society for the better.**

**At least, that's what I have learned in the many years that I have been associated with this leading newspaper.**

* * *

Inevitably, my visitors also ended up asking if Erap Estrada would be acquitted.

Based on the mass of solid, overwhelming testimonies, the President should have either quit or been condemned even before the holiday break.

That's purely my personal opinion, which drew relieved smiles from the sweet faces of the college interviewers.

However, I continued, Erap would prevail in yet another numbers game, not necessarily jueteng.

Why? My two visitors wondered, appearing visibly dismayed.

Because, counting on my fingers the number of rabid pro-Erap lawmakers, the laws of the land would be trampled, violated and the President would escape with an acquittal.

* * *

**It won't be easy and smooth as predicted, though, I warned. That's if the impeachment trial ever pushes to an orderly conclusion.**

**I have myself conducted my own surveys and practically everybody I had talked to thought President Estrada guilty.**

**I did my random interviews around the metropolis.**

**But my findings were next embellished and strengthened by the report from *Kuyang* Goring Coloma, a trusted ally who spent the New Year weekend in his native Nueva Ecija.**

**His report: Even poor people in the barrios have now perceived Erap guilty. *Galit na rin ang mga tao sa baryo.***

* * *

In Lipa City on Jan. 4, during the concelebrated Mass for the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Primo Mayor of Barangay Pangao, a verdict was handed down on President Estrada: Guilty on the weight of evidence.

No need to belabor the issue, explained Monsignor Gaudencio Rosales, Archbishop of the Diocese of Lipa. Monsignor Rosales, vibrant and standing erect, explained that all these trials should strictly be unnecessary in the eyes of the Church, in the mind and heart of a God-loving people.

Why? Because the crisis we are in is neither political nor economic. The issue is MORAL.

* * *

**Monsignor Rosales himself appeared uncertain on how the Senate trial would conclude.**

**But, even before they could raise the graft bribery and other charges against the embattled President, the amorous leader has already indicted himself, Monsignor Rosales said.**

**In short, if moral measures were instead used, the fat man on trial should have readily been banished from office.**

**Monsignor Rosales was singularly appalled at how young men would now start to wonder if taking in more than one wife is normal in the Philippines.**

**He said young males have started to wonder out loud why the President himself is being allowed to publicize and pamper all his mistresses.**

**As expected, the sprightly, well-respected archbishop clarified that, in truth, the economic and political crises set in as a result of a rotten morality.**

**Yes, Ferdinand Marcos became infamous for kleptocracy.**

**But Erap Estrada, whether his dear mother likes it or not, will henceforth be synonymous to immorality.**

# Bong wants protection for family, witnesses in village chief's slay

CAVITE Gov. Ramong "Bong" Revilla asked police to provide protection for the witnesses in the murder of a barangay chair on New Year's Eve.

Revilla also asked for police protection for the family of the victim, Tarcisio Dalman, who earlier expressed fear for their safety.

Dalman, 40, of Barangay Molino 6, Soldiers' Hill, Bacoor, was shot 13 times in the head and body by five men who were on board a tricycle, just two hours before the coming of the new year.

Dalman was an active political supporter of Revilla's wife, Bacoor mayoral aspirant Lani Mercado-Revilla.

The governor issued the order to the regional offices of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police after the eyewitnesses identified the suspects.

Revilla earlier offered a reward of P200,000 to anyone who could furnish information leading to the arrest of the suspects.

In September, Barangay Molino 3 councilman Oscar Ramos was executed by armed men on a motorcycle.

# Immigration tightens watch . . .

(From page A17)

after their passports were found to be spurious.

Josue and Bouget were the seventh and eighth Iranians stopped last week at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) for carrying fake European travel papers.

Wednesday, immigration officers at the airport caught Reza Janmalekidehchani, 32, adjusting his moustache while lining up at the immigration area shortly after his arrival.

Officers David and Crescencio Ablan questioned the foreigner, who presented a Dutch passport, and searched his bags thoroughly. They found the man's Iranian passport hidden among his personal items in a hand-carried bag, the agents said.

The man eventually admitted he was an Iranian, but claimed he only wanted to visit Philippine resorts.

Like Josue and Bouget, he was also sent back on a Malaysian Airlines flight for Kuala Lumpur.

Late last month, at least 10 Iranians were also barred from entering the country, also for carrying fake documents.

Immigration authorities have been on alert following intelligence reports that a big number of Iranians with fake passports would be coming to the Philippines.

Recently, the United States warned all its citizens overseas of possible terrorist threats in the wake of tensions in the Middle East sparked by last year's exchange of hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Citing intelligence information, an official of the Bureau of Immigration at the Naia ordered a thorough inspection of tourists holding Italian, Belgian, Dutch and British passports.

Airport Immigration supervisor Danilo Almeda said it is not known why many Iranians are entering the country.

Almeda said that Iranians with false European travel papers might be using Manila as a stopover on their way to the United States and Japan.

He said that during questioning, some of the Iranians claimed they had to leave their country "to escape persecution" and go to the United States or Japan to find jobs.

Iranians are said to obtain their fake European passports from a smuggling syndicate in Bangkok, Thailand for $15,000 to $20,000 each.

Almeda said he remains suspicious of the purpose of the Iranians in going to the US and Japan.

"We're not saying they're terrorists," he said. "But if they're legitimate travelers, why are they using fraudulent passports? They're hiding their true identities.

"And where do they get the funds to buy the passports?"

Immigration authorities also said some Iranians enter the country with their authentic passports but leave using their fake European passports. Some even acquire Philippine visas upon entry.

"We believe they have contacts with a local smuggling syndicate and come here for a briefing on what to do next," Almeda said.

PROTEST DUMPING
BASURA
BASURA SA ISLA

**RESIDENTS** of Semirara Island, Antique stage a rally to protest the dumping of Metro Manila waste in their community.
JAY BALNIG

# Lahar land might . . .

(From page A17)

Inc. and R-11 Builders Inc. to use a portion of the Semirara coal mine as an alternative interim disposal site for Metro Manila waste. The facility is said to be able to accommodate 2,000 tons of waste daily.

Legarda noted that various groups, including local officials and residents of Antique and Semirara, have united to uphold a local resolution declaring the town of Caluya, of which Semirara is part, as a marine turtle sanctuary.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), earlier announced that it has not issued a permit for the use of the interim facility.

# 994 aliens became Pinoys in 2000

A TOTAL of 994 foreigners were granted Filipino citizenship in the year 2000, Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez said in a yearend report.

Rodriguez said the 994 foreigners did not renounce their native citizenships as they were merely recognized as Filipino citizens since one of their parents was a Filipino at the time of their birth.

The Department of Justice affirmed their recognition papers, allowing them to fully enjoy the rights and privileges of a Filipino. These include being able to work and study in the country without getting permits from the BI.

Under BI rules, any foreigner whose father or mother was still a Filipino at the time of his or her birth can be recognized as a Philippine citizen in line with the 1987 Constitution which defines a Filipino as one who is born to a Filipino father or mother.

Rodriguez said no less than the Supreme Court laid down this principle of dual citizenship when it ruled in the case of Mercado vs. Manzano in 1998.

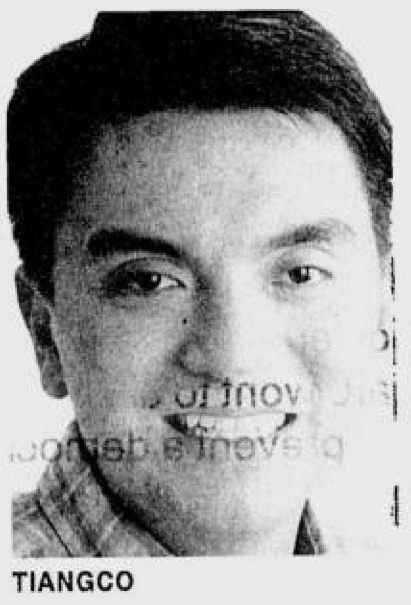
The high tribunal ruled that while actor Edu Manzano, now Makati vice mayor, was an American citizen due to his being born in the United States, he was also a Filipino because both of his parents were Filipino citizens at the time of his birth.

But Rodriguez said a foreigner, even if he has Filipino blood, cannot be recognized as a Filipino if, at the time of birth, his or her Filipino parent was already naturalized as a citizen of another country.

At least 261 of the alien applicants last year were thus denied recognition by the BI or DOJ because of their failure to prove they were qualified for Philippine citizenship.

Among them were a number of players in the Philippine Basketball Association who were found to have faked their citizenship records to be able to play in the pro league. They included Asi Taulava of Mobiline, a Tongan, and Sonny Alvarado of Tanduay, a Puerto Rican.

*Gerald G. Lacuarta*



TIANGCO

# Navotas teachers go to 'Saigon'

THE 1,000 public school teachers of Navotas will get to watch the hit British musical "Miss Saigon" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines—for free, according to Mayor Toby Tiangco.

The mayor bought tickets to the musical and distributed them to the teachers as his personal Christmas gifts for them.

"Our teachers deserve a break from their job," Tiangco, 33, said.

The teachers have three playdates to choose from—Jan. 26, 27 and 28.

# DISINFORMATION
# DESTABILIZATION
# TERRORISM..

## can destroy the Filipino nation

THE spate of bombings in Metro Manila is the logical outcome of a conspiracy to bring down the Estrada administration which had been in place from Day One.

By cunningly exploiting and forcing the issue of resignation by the President on clearly unconstitutional grounds, and by pressuring the impeachment tribunal to mock due process and the rule of law by turning a blind eye to a balanced appreciation of the facts of the case, these malevolent forces have created a situation for terrorism to rear its ugly head.

Sixteen dead and more than 90 injured (as of the latest count) are morbid statistics that horrified the entire Filipino nation and the rest of the civilized world.

But these figures are meaningless to terrorists and their masters who want to see more dead and maimed for life until the country is paralyzed and government succumbs to pressure and capitulates to their demand.

Treacherous bombings and mayhem are instruments of terror that the masters of disinformation and destabilization are wont to use in their crazed attempt to deny due process to prevent a democratically elected President from finishing his constitutional term of office.

Terrorism is the final weapon of those who want to take over by paralyzing government, decapitating its leadership and letting its tail run wild.

The objective of the masterminds of these terror bombings is to destroy the very social fabric that binds the nation together. They foment discord and create havoc as means to further erode the democratic foundations of the nation. They want to destroy our democracy through lies, violence and chaos.

Without unassailable evidence to convince the senator-jurors, these malcontents are now resorting to the worst option: To kill, maim and sow fear among our people in pursuit of their futile, yet deadly plot to paralyze the government and rob it of its capacity to govern.

**The government is duty bound to ferret out the truth behind the dastardly and bloody bombings in Metro Manila, nail down the perpetrators and masterminds, charge and prosecute them and exact punishment to the fullest extent of the law.**

**We call on President Joseph Estrada to continue exercising his leadership to protect our people, our Constitution and our democratic way of life.**

*Filipinos unite and oppose all threats to our freedom and democracy!*

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| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
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| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | DEATH ROW |
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| 11 | DOLBY SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
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| 2 | DOLBY DIGITAL | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
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| 5 | DOLBY DIGITAL | REMEMBER THE TITANS |
| 6 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | THE 6TH DAY |
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| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | GATAS |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | PING LACSON STORY |
| 11 | DOLBY SURROUND | LOST SOULS |
| 12 | DOLBY SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |

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| 3 | DOLBY DIGITAL | THE 6TH DAY |
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| 5 | DOLBY SURROUND | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
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| 5 | DOLBY SURROUND | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | REMEMBER THE TITANS |
| 7 | DTS | THE 6TH DAY |
| 8 | DOLBY DIGITAL | THE 6TH DAY |
| 9 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 11 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | DEATH ROW |
| 12 | DOLBY SURROUND | PING LACSON STORY |

**SM SOUTHMALL** 8066868 • 8066782

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | PING LACSON STORY |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 3 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | REMEMBER THE TITANS |
| 7 | ULTRA SURROUND | GATAS |
| 8 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | THE 6TH DAY |
| 9 | ULTRA SURROUND | DEATH ROW |
| 10 | ULTRA SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |

**TUTUBAN CENTER** 2514302

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 3 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | PING LACSON STORY |
| 4 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |

**SM CEBU** 2313876

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | PING LACSON STORY |
| 3 | ULTRA SURROUND | GATAS |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | DEATH ROW |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | UNBREAKABLE |

**SM ILOILO** 3209422

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | JUAN & TED |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 3 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE GRINCH |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | CHARLIE'S ANGEL |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 7 | ULTRA SURROUND | NAGHUHUMIYAW |
| 8 | ULTRA SURROUND | CROCODILE |

**SM PAMPANGA** 7128015

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | CROCODILE |
| 3 | DOLBY SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 4 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | GATAS |
| 5 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | SUGO NG TONDO |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |

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**GLORIETTA 1** formerly QUAD

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 3 | GATAS |
| 4 | TANGING YAMAN |

All Digital Sound
**GLORIETTA 4**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE | in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY | in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 | THE 6TH DAY THX | in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 4 | DEATH ROW | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 5 | TANGING YAMAN | in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 6 | MEET THE PARENTS | in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 7 | SPIRIT WARRIORS | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |

Art Film

**GREENBELT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS | |
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY | in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 | MEET THE PARENTS | in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND |
| 4 | SOON TO OPEN Onstage | |

**ALABANG TOWN CENTER**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | THE 6TH DAY THX | in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY | in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 | MEET THE PARENTS | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 4 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 5 | TANGING YAMAN | in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |

## MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

## MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DDS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 (SDDS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 (DTS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 4 (GOLD DTS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 5 (GOLD DOLBY) | REMEMBER THE TITANS |
| 6 (GOLD SDDS) | DEATH ROW |
| 7 (GOLD DOLBY) | EMPERORS GROOVE |
| 8 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 9 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 10 | GATAS |

**Pearl Plaza Cinemas**
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 3 (DTS) | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 | DEATH ROW |
| 5 | RESERVE |
| 6 (DTS) | THE 6TH DAY |

Golden Pearl THX

**Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3**
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 (DTS) | DEATH ROW |
| 3 | MEET THE PARENTS |

**Masagana CINEMA**
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |

**starmall Movies**
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 | PING LACSON STORY |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 5 | DEATH ROW |

**Metropolis**
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | PING LACSON STORY |
| 2 | GATAS |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 | DEATH ROW |
| 5 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 6 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 7 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 8 | MEET THE PARENTS |

**Uniwide Metromall**
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | NAKALIMUT NA PAG-IBIG |
| 2 | BIYAK NA GUBAT |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | DROGA |
| 5 | RESERVE |
| 6 | RESERVE |

**Uniwide Coastal Mall**
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | AKO ANG LALAGOT |
| 3 | RATRATAN |
| 4 | TATLONG PUSO |

**Center Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 2 | TANGING YAMAN |

**FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC**
tel 930.9515

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 2 | GATAS |
| 3 | THE 6TH DAY |

**Spring**
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| A | THE 6TH DAY |

**JC Cinema**
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |

**GOTESCO CINEMA**

**City**
(Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | GATAS |
| 2 | PING LACSON STORY |
| 3 | DEATH ROW |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 5 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 6 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 7 (DTS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 8 (SDDS) | REMEMBER THE TITANS |
| 9 (DOLBY) | THE 6TH DAY |

**Caloocan**
tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 | PING LACSON STORY |
| 4 | GATAS |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |

**Grand Central**
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 (SDDS) | REMEMBER THE TITANS |
| 5 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 6 (DOLBY) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 7 (DTS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 8 | DEATH ROW |
| 9 | PING LACSON STORY |

**Commonwealth**
tel 951.0083

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 2 | GATAS |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 5 (DTS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 6 | PING LACSON STORY |
| 7 (DOLBY) | REMEMBER THE TITANS |
| 8 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |

**Ortigas**
tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | PING LACSON STORY |
| 2 | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 3 (DTS) | GATAS |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 5 (SDDS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 6 (DOLBY) | TANGING YAMAN |
| 7 (DOLBY) | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |

**Universal**
(Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |

**Sampaquita**
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |

**Dilson**
(Manila) tel 734.7724

| | |
|---|---|
| Dilson | PRIVATE LESSON |
| Lords | PING LACSON STORY |
| Jennet | BUBOT |

**MARKET! MARKET!** Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |

**Prima**
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 3 | GATAS |

**Super Cinerama**
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 3 | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 4 | GATAS |
| 5 | TANGING YAMAN |

**Divisoria Mall**
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 5 | PING LACSON STORY |
| 6 | DEATH ROW |

**Baclaran LRT Cinema**
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 | PING LACSON STORY |
| 3 | THE 6TH DAY |

**CINEMA 2000**

**Cinema 2000 Target Mall**
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 2 | GATAS |
| 3 (DTS) | THE 6TH DAY |

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 (DTS) | TANGING YAMAN |
| 3 (DOLBY) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 4 | MEET THE PARENTS |

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | GATAS |
| 3 | DEATH ROW |
| 4 (DTS) | SPIRIT WARRIORS |

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | GATAS |
| 3 (DTS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 4 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 5 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 3 | GATAS |

**Olivarez Los Baños**
tel (049) 536.5101

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 3 | GATAS |

**Olivarez Tagaytay**
tel (046) 413.0311

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 2 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 3 | NAGHUHUMIYAW |

**Morales Cinema**
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |

**Sunshine**
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 | GATAS |

**Cabuyao**
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 (DTS) | GATAS |

**Fourstep**
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TANGING YAMAN |

**Emperor**
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 2 | GATAS |
| 3 | THE 6TH DAY |

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 2 | DEATH ROW |
| 3 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 4 | THE 6TH DAY |

**Berma**
tel 879.2168

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | RESERVE |
| 2 | RESERVE |

**CitiMall**
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | GATAS |
| 2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 4 | TANGING YAMAN |

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | MARKOVA COMFORT GAY |
| 2 | TANGING YAMAN |
| 3 | SUGATANG PUSO |
| 4 | THE 6TH DAY |

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# Weekend in hell

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

IN "Meet the Parents," **Ben Stiller** plays a nurse who's head over heels in love with a young teacher, who's now his live-in partner. He wants to marry her but can't summon up the courage to propose.

Stiller's big opportunity comes when his girlfriend's sister is slated to get married, and he's invited to the wedding so he can meet her folks. The experience starts out beautifully, but turns out to be a weekend in hell after Stiller gets to know his paranoid, devious and hateful prospective father-in-law (**Robert De Niro**).

De Niro's wife (**Blythe Danner**) isn't so bad, she's merely ditzy, but De Niro is a major caution. He's supposed to have retired only recently from the exotic flower business, but Stiller eventually finds out that De Niro is engaged in more mysterious and even dangerous pursuits.

De Niro's arch and suspicious manner puts Stiller on the defensive, so he ends up getting all tensed up, which results in a number of terrible accidents. How terrible? Well, is practically burning down De Niro's house bad enough for you?

The film involves Stiller in a number of other scrapes that make him shrink to a very small size indeed in De Niro's view.

Toward the end of the film, the wedding is in danger of not taking place at all, and Stiller and his girlfriend are about to end their own heretofore happy relationship—all because De Niro hates the prospect of seeing somebody as "undeserving" as Stiller run off with his favorite daughter.

But, of course, the movie can't end on that tragic note, so the plot pulls itself around just in the nick of time for true love to finally triumph (well, just barely squeak through, okay?) over ferocious father love and future son-in-law disdain.

"Meet the Parents" is sufficiently entertaining in terms of storytelling, but its interest level dips in spots as the production can't think of enough truly funny developments to keep its humor humming.

WEEKEND/ A21

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STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

e-mail:htc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieword.com

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**ERMITA** 536-7609-14

| | |
|---|---|
| ❶ | THE 6TH DAY |
| ❷ | TANGING YAMAN |
| ❸ | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| ❹ | THE 6TH DAY |
| ❺ | GATAS |
| ❻ | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| ❼ | MEET THE PARENTS |

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**IMUS** (046)875-3838

| | |
|---|---|
| ❶ | THE 6TH DAY |
| ❷ | GATAS |
| ❸ | TANGING YAMAN |
| ❹ | MEET THE PARENTS |
| ❺ | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| ❻ | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |

**BACOLOD** (034)441-0453

| | |
|---|---|
| ❶ | THE 6TH DAY |
| ❷ | TANGING YAMAN |
| ❸ | CHARLIE'S ANGELS |
| ❹ | SUGATANG PUSO |
| ❺ | PING LACSON STORY |
| ❻ | SPIRIT WARRIORS |

DOLBY dts SDDS

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

**ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101**

| | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | TANGING YAMAN |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | GATAS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | THE 6TH DAY |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | THE 6TH DAY |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | GATAS |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | PING LACSON STORY |
| NEW FRONTIER | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | THE 6TH DAY |
| MIRAMAR | ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE / HOT SPOT |
| ODEON | THE 6TH DAY |
| ODEON-2 | PING LACSON STORY |
| ROBEN | GATAS |
| TANDEM-1 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| TANDEM-2 | NAGHUHUMIYAW |
| TIMES | HOLLOW MAN / GINGER SNAPS |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY |
| ACT-2 | IKAW LAMANG |
| ACT-3 | CLASS AGAIN |
| ACT-4 | KAAGAW |
| CORONET-2 | GATAS |
| QUEZON-1 | THE 6TH DAY |
| REMAR | THE 6TH DAY |
| REMAR-2 | GATAS |
| **CUBAO** | |
| OCEAN SUPERAMA | MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY |
| OCEAN CINEMA-A | LARO SA BAGA |
| OCEAN CINEMA-B | GUEVARRA |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| CINEMA-2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-54091 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| CINEMA-2 | GATAS |
| CINEMA-3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | THE 6TH DAY |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | DEATH ROW |
| CINEMA-6 | PING LACSON STORY |
| CINEMA-7 | MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY |
| CINEMA-8 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | THE 6TH DAY |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| CINEMA-12 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| CINEMA-14 | GATAS |
| CINEMA-15 | TANGING YAMAN |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| CINEMA-3 | TANGING YAMAN |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | TANGING YAMAN |
| CINEMA-2 | MEET THE PARENTS |
| CINEMA-3 | MEET THE PARENTS |
| CINEMA-4 | THE 6TH DAY |
| CINEMA-5 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| CINEMA-6 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |

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# ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

## Aventajado's charm and the vice president's hair

**KRIS AND TELL**

*Kris Aquino*

SECRETARY **Robert Aventajado**, whom I recently interviewed on my morning program "Today with Kris Aquino," is definitely a charmer.

He has been one of the most high profile members of President Estrada's Cabinet and one of the most controversial, most recently because of **Der Spiegel**'s accusations that he took a commission from the ransom payments made to the Abu Sayyaf.

In person, he's a tall man, with a big build, good, healthy looking skin, and a refreshing smile. He answered my questions directly and with appealing humility. He didn't waffle when I asked him if he was seriously considering running for a seat in the Senate. I'm pretty sure I took him by surprise when I declared on-air that he has my vote.

On the same program, Vice President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** was my one-on-one guest during my show's first half. She has a new, very flattering haircut. Her honesty was disarming when she mentioned that the makeover came about because people she would come across on the streets, particularly in the urban poor areas, and during her speaking engagements would constantly tell her that they were tired of her ponytail.

When she put her hair down and people noticed it was long and fell past her shoulders, irrepressible Pinoys told her that it looked untidy.

I know that it's *mababaw* to put much emphasis on a national leader's hair, but it is a good indication that our vice president clearly listens to the opinions of her constituents.

***

During my trip to Hong Kong, on the same flight were former Speaker **Manny Villar** and his clan as well as presidential defense lawyer **Raul Daza**. I felt guilty for having previously written that Attorney Daza's hair was badly dyed because his wife, Mrs. **Tessie Daza**, was so gracious and she even gave Josh candies when he was getting antsy on the flight.

While walking in the Pacific Place mall on our second day in Hong Kong, I saw a Pinoy-looking man, obviously a bodyguard, wearing a shirt that declared "WALANG IWANAN" in front and "ERAP FOREVER" in the back. He and his partners smiled at me.

In front of them I recognized their charge, **Jake Ejercito**, one of the president's sons with **Laarni Enriquez**. Jake was sweet and didn't hesitate to say hello.

I had met him more than six years ago when I did a *telesine* for his mom's production company, and he and his sister accompanied their mom to our tapings. At that time, he was truly one of the most handsome little boys I had ever laid my eyes on (he was very chubby then, with light brown hair, creamy baby smooth skin and very pink cheeks).

If I'm not mistaken, he's around 10 years old now. Since that first time, every time I bumped into him, he was always ready to smile and kiss me in greeting.

He has mostly been shielded from the prying eyes of the press, as well he should be, but I can safely say that he really is the cutest of the President's sons! I just pray that the ongoing events don't permanently scar him, because he should not be made to pay for any of the perceived sins of his parents.

* * *

I've been religiously following the coverage of the Senate impeachment trial and let me just say that my estimation and admiration for Sen. **Loren Legarda-Leviste** increases with each passing day.

She is extremely knowledgeable every time she does the questioning, and, more importantly, she is always polite and never condescending toward the witnesses. I am so glad that she was No. 1 on my list when I voted for senators in 1998.

On another note, my salary from ABS-CBN goes directly to my account in Equitable-PCIBank Quezon Avenue branch. My two credit cards were also issued by Equitable Card Network. Most important to me, my son Joshua's kiddie savings account is also in Equitable-PCIBank.

After watching the testimony of the bank's **Clarissa Ocampo**, I am firm in my decision to keep our money in Equitable-PCIBank. Josh and I don't have even one percent of **Jose Velarde**'s P500-million trust account, but we have been very happy with the efficient service and personal care that the bank's personnel have accorded us.

I really think it would be very unfair and un-Christian for the bank's employees to suffer because of ill-advised decisions taken by the bank's chair in the past, which are now being rectified.

And that's why I intend to keep my business with Equitable-PCIBank. That's really putting my money where my mouth is.

## Weekend in hell

(From page A20)

Still, the performances turned in principally by De niro and Stiller make up for some of those low, slow spots.

De Niro is a malevolent marvel of meanness, and Stiller is the perfect loving but inept shmuck whom the fickle finger of fate just loves to goose.

Would that the film's other elements were as fine. Failing that, however, De Niro and Stiller will just have to do, and they do pretty well.

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| 4<br>THE 6TH DAY<br>11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 | 5<br>EMPERORS NEW GROOVE<br>1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 8:30 | 6<br>EMPERORS NEW GROOVE<br>12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00 |

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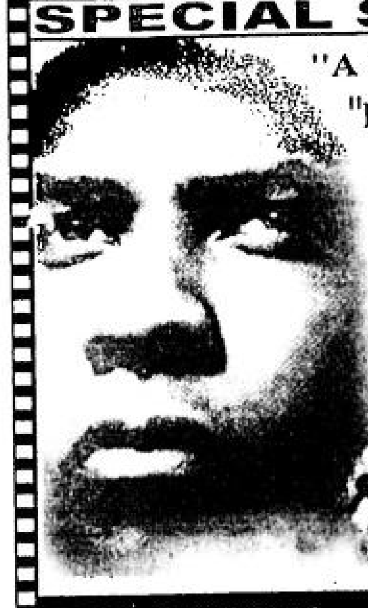

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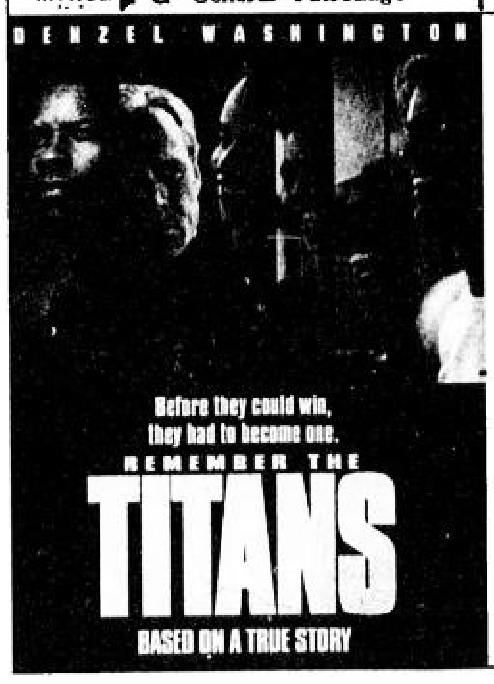
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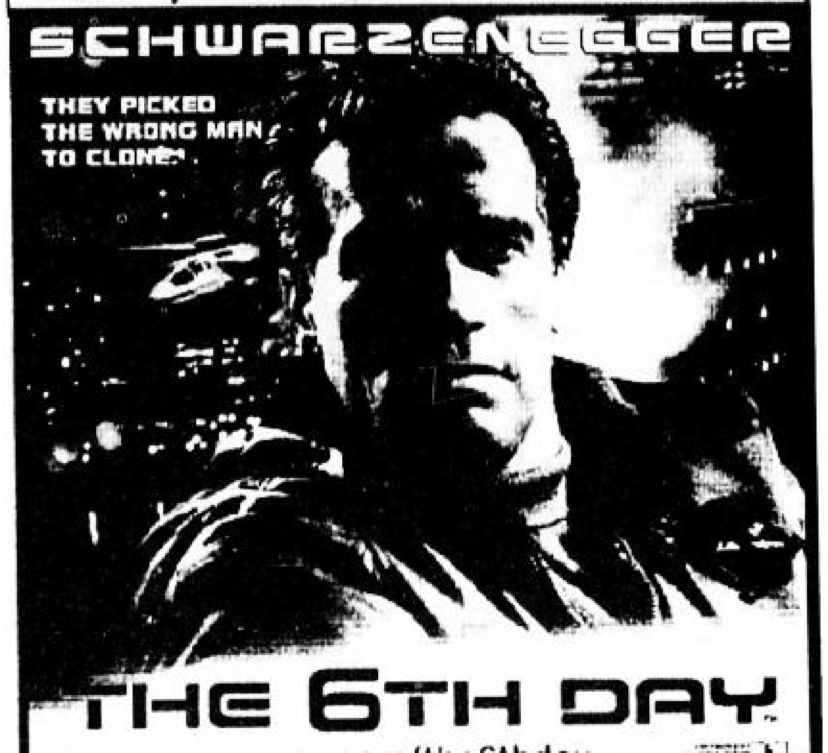
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THE 6TH DAY

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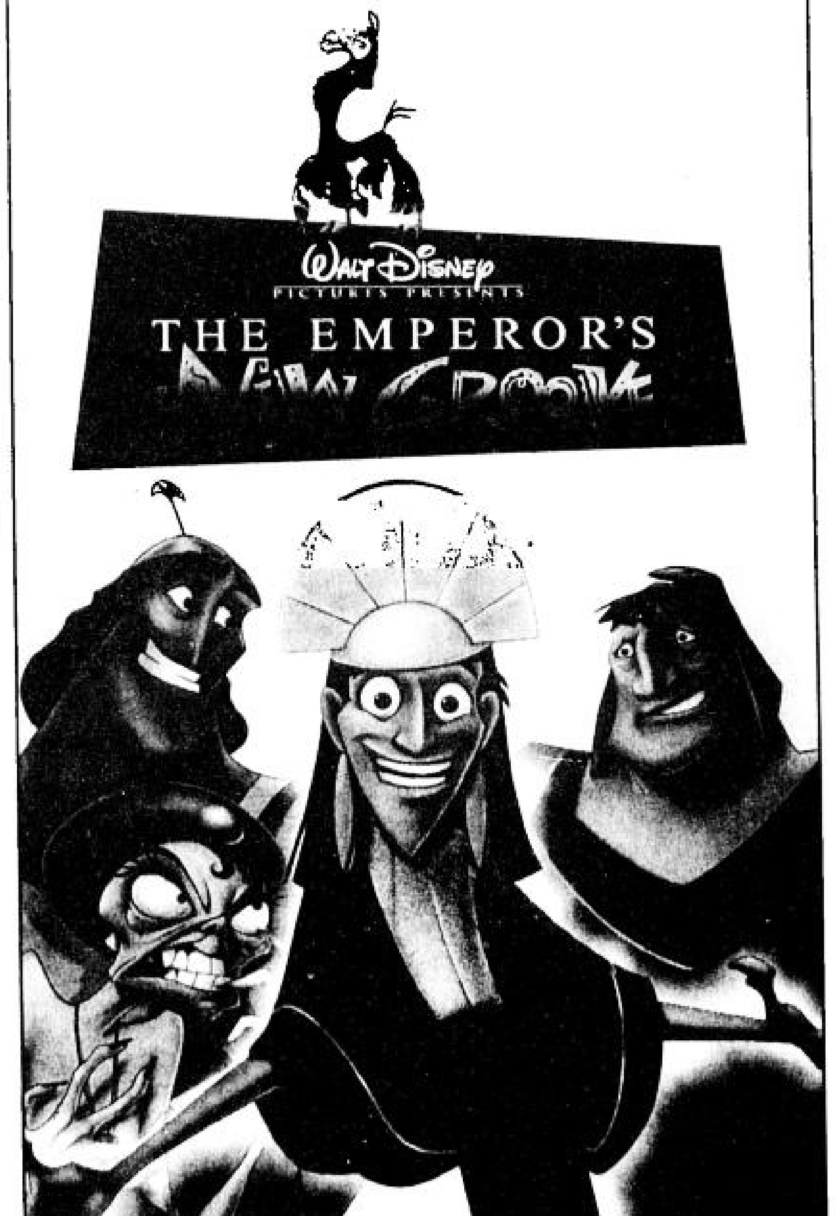

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MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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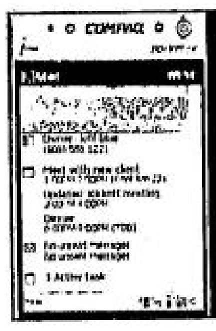

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# RP forex reserves hit $15.1B

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves surged to a higher-than-expected $15.1 billion in end-December, $100 million more than the year-ago level and up by $600 million from the previous month's $14.5 billion.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said dollar inflows from overseas contract workers as well as increased portfolio investments into the financial markets were responsible for the higher-than-expected reserves.

From $14.9 billion on Dec. 28, the dollar reserves went up by $200 million the next day, the last trading day of the year.

Buenaventura earlier estimated the dollar reserves to hit only $14.5 billion by end-2000 despite a fresh $200-million loan obtained by the national government in mid-December.

The BSP chief said maturing obligations of the national government of about $400 million would be paid within the month.

"There is no GIR target yet for this year but we will come up with a number as we go into a post-monitoring program with the IMF (International Monetary Fund). We could aim for about $16 billion," Buenaventura said.

He also reported a $532-million balance-of-payments deficit in the first nine months of 2000 from a surplus of $65 million as of August. This was despite a current account surplus of $6.1 billion from January to September because of healthy export growth and weak imports.

The current account surplus had improved from $5.6 billion as of August.

"However, a weaker financial account offset the gains in the current account, resulting in an overall BOP deficit of $532 million during the period," the central bank governor said.

The accelerated surplus in the current account helped offset an already declining weakness in the financial accounts. Buenaventura said strong exports helped buoy the country's external figures.

"Toward the end of the year we saw a net inflow in portfolio as well as foreign direct investments," he said.

Buenaventura pointed out that net portfolio inflow in November was the highest for the year at $161.1 million even as he recognized a $500 million shift in the direction of portfolio investment from a $386.8 million net inflow in the first 11 months of 1999 to a net outflow of $109.6 million last year.

Despite the inflow of $301.2 million in November, portfolio investments in the first 11 months of the year still registered a net outflow of $109.6 million against a net inflow of $386.8 million in the same period last year.

In the first week of December, outflow of $16.3 million against inflow of $14.4 million led to a net outflow of $1.9 million. As of the first week of December, net outflow again rose slightly to $111.5 million against a net inflow of $420.7 million in the same period last year.

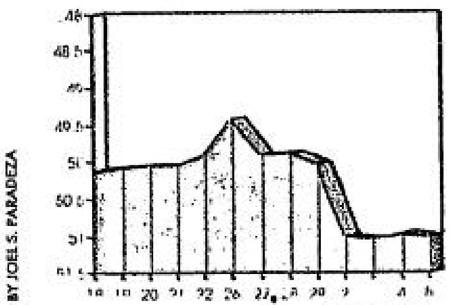
Buenaventura said more hot funds were slipping back to take advantage of the bargain prices in the local bourse as well as significant returns in government securities.

Hot money had been going out of the country for most part of the year. Inflows noticeably started trickling back in late September and analysts said this was because prices of local stocks were already nearing bottom.

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY JOEL S. PARADEZA

**Peso-Dollar Rate**

₱51.00 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 5, 2001

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The US dollar was trading at 116.30 as of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 5, 2001

GOLD:$268/268.40
per ounce Hong Kong,
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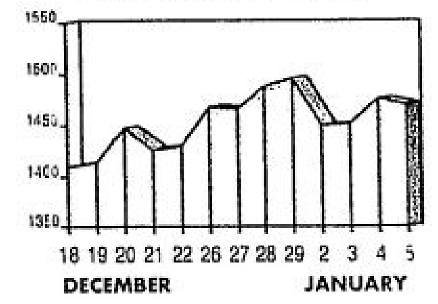
**PSE Composite Index**



(See stock market report on Page B4)

### STOCK MARKET

## Thin trading seen

AN OVERSOLD stock market is expected to trade within a narrow range and thin volumes this week as the impeachment trial against President Estrada drags on.

Analysts said the lingering effects of the five separate bombings in Metro Manila last weekend were still not off the market's mind.

Other analysts said investors were likely to maintain their short-term trading stance, taking advantage of the market's volatility.

Analysts said they expect another range-bound trading this week, possibly with a downward bias. They forecast the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, which tumbled by 25 points last week to close at 1,469.08, to trade anywhere between a low of 1,400 and a high of 1,500.

Last week, daily trading value turnover averaged at a historic low of P283 million as investors continued to avoid the local market, one of the worst performers in Asia for the year 2000.

## Moody's affirms Equitable ratings

MOODY'S Investors Service affirmed the ratings of Equitable PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, despite concerns over withdrawals from the bank in recent weeks.

"The recent withdrawals, which amounted to approximately 2 percent of deposits, were not viewed as having a material or lasting impact on Equitable PCI Bank's competitive position," Moody's said in a statement on Saturday.

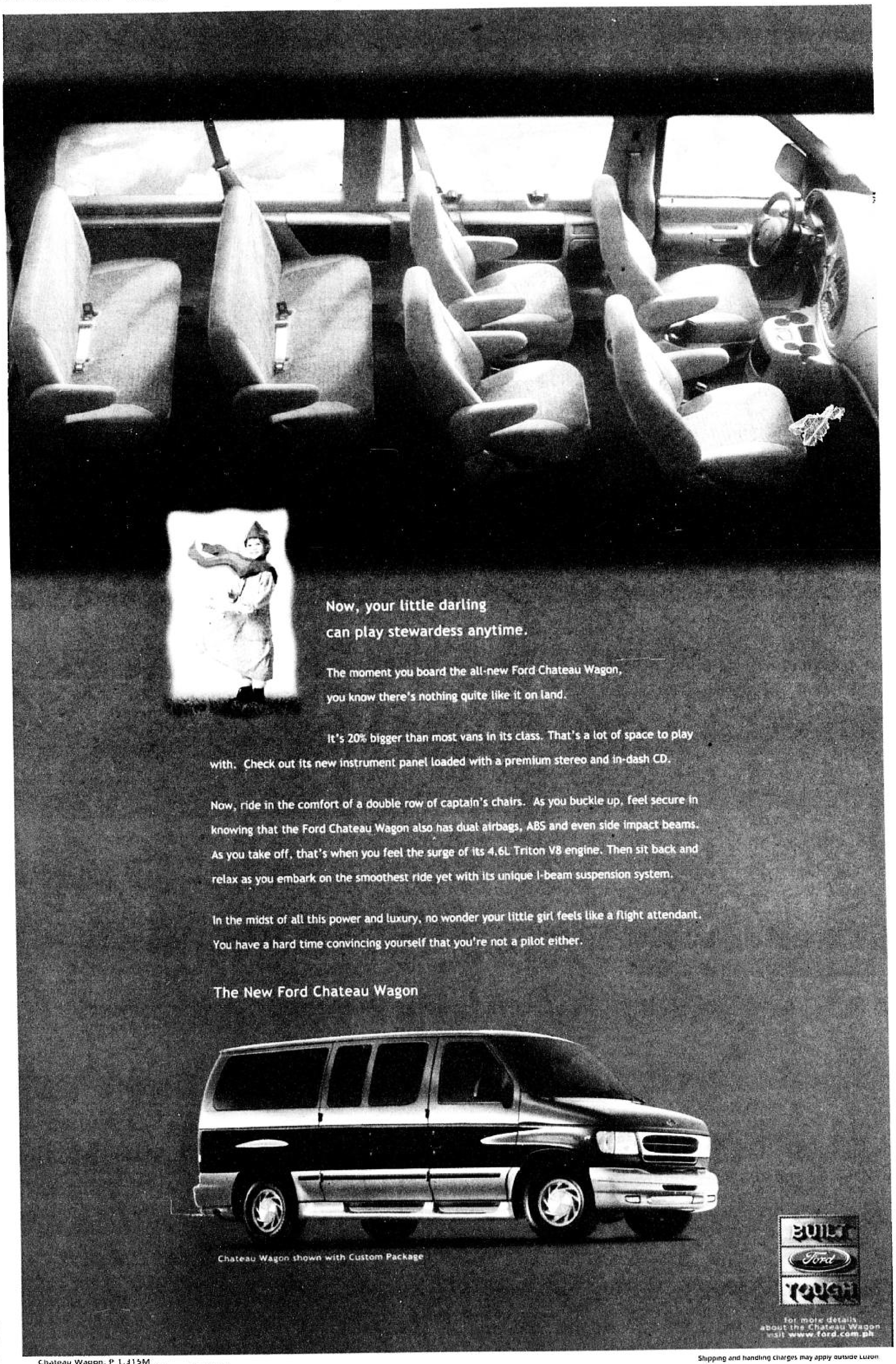
Moody's said it affirmed the Ba2 rating for the bank's long-term and short-term deposits and D rating for bank financial strength. It maintained the negative outlook on the ratings, which was revised from stable in October.

Shares of Equitable PCI Bank closed down 2.7 percent or P1.5 at P53.50 on Friday following news of withdrawals since it became embroiled in President Estrada's impeachment trial.

The rating agency said it expects the bank to receive "strong liquidity support from the central bank, should it be needed. However, Equitable PCI Bank's recent liquidity position has been sound."

On Friday, Equitable PCI Bank said it had not asked the central bank for emergency assistance, contrary to rumors circulating in the market.

"It is business as usual and rumors to the contrary notwithstanding, Equitable PCI Bank is financially strong," bank chair Ricardo Romulo said in a statement. *Reuters*



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## 7,000 UNITS IN 3 YEARS

# Norkis-Daimler SKD imports OKd

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has allowed Daimler-Chrysler Corp. and its local partner Norkis Automotive Resources Corp. to bring in 1,000 semi-knocked down (SKD) units of Chrysler sport utility vehicles and pickups this year with an option to bring in another 2,500 units in 2002 and 3,500 units in 2003.

In a letter to the Board of Investments, then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora directed the agency to allow Daimler-Chrysler and Norkis to import 1,000 SKDs this year subject to several conditions.

Zamora said Daimler-Chrysler and Norkis must go to full automotive assembly using completely knocked down (CKD) units within 18 months; put up a guarantee for its committed net foreign exchange earnings, and provide a bond to cover for the discounts it would get through preferred duties.

Zamora said Daimler-Chrysler, one of the world's biggest carmakers, should be the one to make a pledge to back up these commitments.

The certificate of authority to import 7,000 SKDs over three years is by far the biggest importation of SKDs and longest shipment period approved by the government considering that past SKD licenses were normally for only 500 units good for 18 months.

SKDs are virtually completely built-up (CBU) units without batteries and tires but they are slapped the same tariff as CKDs. Since CKDs are charged between 3 percent and 10 percent while CBUs are levied 30 percent, importers of SKDs enjoy a 20 percent to 27 percent discount.

The BOI had discontinued the granting of SKD import licenses a few years ago under the Motor Vehicle Development Program because some assemblers abused these privileges that were meant to help new assemblers build up their own niche in the local market. Some assemblers failed to move to CKD assembly after selling all their SKDs. However, the BOI continues to give special SKD licenses subject to an endorsement from Malacañang.

In granting Malacañang's endorsement to the importation, Zamora said the President took note of Norkis' Cebu assembly facility. Daimler-Chrysler and Norkis claimed that roughly P380 million has been spent for their Cebu factory and only P5 million was required to adjust the lines to accommodate a CKD assembly for both Chrysler and Matiz (a bantam car distributed locally by Norkis) models.

Also, Zamora agreed with Daimler-Chrysler's view that it needed at least three years to develop a reasonable market program within which it could validate its test market and product, and determine which model could be assembled in the Philippines "economically."

On concerns that SKD imports would merely drain the country's foreign exchange resources (since only the tires and batteries would be procured locally), Zamora said Daimler-Chrysler has committed to buy automotive parts from the country that would be worth more than the cost of their SKD imports.

Aside from an authority to bring in 7,000 SKD units over the next three years, Daimler-Chrysler and Norkis are asking the BOI to extend their original license to bring in 500 SKD units for another 18 months in order to use the unutilized portion.

Daimler-Chrysler and Norkis said only 271 units out of the 500 SKD units were brought in when the license expired. Out of the approved SKD importation, only 58 were sold, 124 are still in the bonded warehouse and showrooms, and 60 units are still in transit. Half of the units sold were the 1998 Jeep Laredo/Cherokee while the rest were Voyagers, Grand Cherokees and Durangos.

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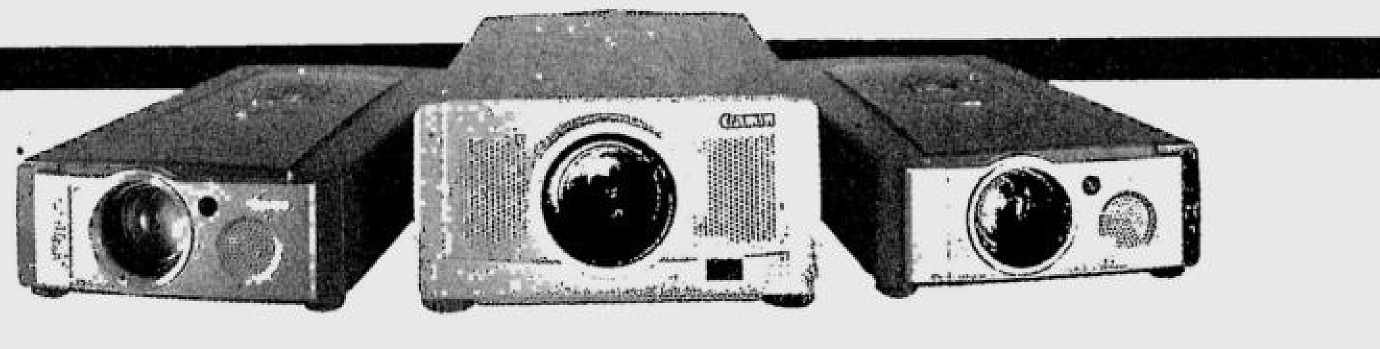

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# Shariah banking: A boon for small businesses?

**MINDANAO ONE**

*Bai Narriman Abbas-Olermo*

AS interest rates skyrocket, and the peso plunges to its lowest level, and establishments fold up one after the other, a possible lifeline for small businesses in Mindanao looms in the horizon: Islamic or Shariah banking.

The big attraction is that this banking system does not require collateral and, under Islamic law, lenders are prohibited from collecting interests on their loans.

Shariah banking, which operates according to the tenets of the Koran, is no substitute for conventional commercial banks, with their extensive branch networks and wide range of services, but it holds a number of advantages for small businesses, most of whom lack assets to back their loan applications

The Islamic concept of a loan differs markedly from the Western business concept, which regards it as an investment transaction producing a net gain to the lender. In the Islamic sense, however, a loan is a form of charity. Therefore, any benefit to the lender as a result of making the loan, or any increment in repayment over and above the amount lent, disqualifies the transaction as a loan.

Instead, borrowing money from a Shariah bank is viewed as a partnership, wherein both the parties share the risks and the profits. The borrower is not locked into paying a set amount representing interest on the money borrowed. The amount to be paid instead depends on the revenues generated by the business, a setup that can effectively cushion the business from economic ups and downs.

Borrowers, however, must be prepared for closer and more regular scrutiny of their operations than in the non-Shariah system. Having your banker look over your shoulder every now and then can be a little daunting if you are not used to this, but it could be well worth it.

Filipinos long used to earning regular interest on their accounts would also have to adjust to the way the Shariah system prohibits paying interest on deposits. Again, the system here works more like a partnership, wherein accountholders get a share of the Islamic bank's revenues.

The Muslim community is the natural market for Shariah banking, but non-Muslims can actually open a Shariah account or arrange financing (although pig farms and other un-Islamic projects are not allowed).

An interesting possibility is that conventional banks may eventually put up "Islamic financial windows" in their Mindanao branches. The Central Bank could come up with regulations to monitor Shariah banks and help them manage liquidity.

In Indonesia, where Islamic banking has caught on, the Jakarta Stock Exchange has added a Shariah index of 30 companies that follow Islamic teachings. Danareksa Fund Management has launched a mutual fund investing in such stocks. Danareksa president Iwan Pontjowinoto is currently trying to set up an Islamic money market fund to help Shariah banks handle excess liquidity.

In the future, with a Shariah system firmly established, the Philippine Stock Exchange might be interested in adding a Shariah index, and local fund managers could likewise consider setting up an Islamic money-market fund.

"Lift-off" takes a tremendous effort, but once we break out of the gravity pull, there is a whole new dimension of freedom. Doing things the Islamic way is hard work, but provided Islamic banks remain prudent and vigilant, it can be good for Philippine business.

To better understand and appreciate Islamic banking and finance, the Muslim Business Forum is holding this month a series of briefings on the topic in several Mindanao cities. Its target participants are Muslim businessmen and professionals, bank managers, economic advocates, corporate leaders and heads of educational institutions, including state universities.

The briefing is also aimed at addressing major constraints on the economic development of Muslims, and putting together the collective aspirations of Mindanaoans within a holistic development framework. We believe that true economic emancipation in the Muslim community will help bring about long and lasting peace in this island-region.

We are also advocating for Mindanao-based educational institutions, including state universities, to include in their curriculum courses related to Islamic commerce, economics, banking and finance, or at least offer these as elective subjects. This will enhance appreciation of the various Islamic practices and principles, and foster better business relationships between Muslims and non-Muslims.

*(Bai Narriman Abbas-Olermo is a member of the Muslim Business Forum in General Santos City)*

# SMC seen taking lead in lobbying for business sector

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., controlled by businessman Eduardo"Danding" Cojuangco, has surfaced as the business community's virtual representative in dialogues with the government after the country's major business organizations deserted President Estrada due to a bribery scandal.

An industry source said San Miguel officials met with top officials of several government agencies last week to discuss policies on how to reduce business costs and rationalize the country's tariff structure in order to improve the competitiveness of local players.

The source said the discussions covered broad topics—from power costs to concerns on tariff rates. He said that issues concerning San Miguel (such as its petition for lower duties on beer and packaging inputs, and incentives for its projects) were not touched.

San Miguel apparently felt that the country's economic problems should be addressed, even though President Estrada's tenure remains uncertain with the ongoing impeachment trial, and had decided to take the lead in lobbying for business interests in the formulation of government policies.

But Finance Secretary Jose T. Pardo clarified that certain government officials met with San Miguel not as the business sector's representative but as a member of the business community that could provide necessary data to the government.

Members of the country's biggest business groups, including the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, appealed to President Estrada late last year to resign in the light of the deepening political and economic crisis.

The majority of the board of the PCCI, a loyal supporter of the Estrada administration, and 13 of its 17 regional chambers nationwide pushed for President Estrada's resignation instead of an impeachment.

Aside from the PCCI, 12 other major business groups seeking the President's resignation were the Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Bishops Businessmen's Conference, Cebu Business Club, Foundation for Economic Freedom, Iloilo Business Club, Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Muslim Business Forum, Philippine Computer Society, and Philippine Marketing Association.

The source said that with the business groups' vote of no confidence, it would be difficult for the Estrada administration to pursue its economic reforms, which was why it tapped San Miguel to take the lead.

The source said some businessmen still wanted to hold discussions with government individually and not as a group. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

# Pryce Corp. seeks LTCP restructuring

MEMORIAL parks developer Pryce Corp. is hoping to restructure over P300 million in long-term commercial papers because of the slumping domestic economy.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Pryce corporate secretary Rey Nathaniel Ifurung admitted that the company would not be able to retire its principal debt for at least one more year.

Pryce was supposed to pay its principal debt on Dec. 8 last year but was able to pay only the accrued interests.

Ifurung said Pryce needed to restructure its long-term commercial papers to give it a "breathing spell in the light of the country's current economic and political uncertainties as well as the continuing slump in the property market."

"Negotiations are continuing with the majority holders of the LTCPs to arrive at mutually acceptable terms and conditions of the restructuring/refinancing of the principal amount, and we expect to be able to execute the relevant agreements in the next 30 days," he said.

Established in 1989 and listed in 1991, Pryce was originally a property holding and development company with interests in hotel chains, golf courses, residential and office condominiums, and resorts. It has since converted itself into a holding company and has diversified, through subsidiary Pryce Gases Inc., into the industrial gas industry.

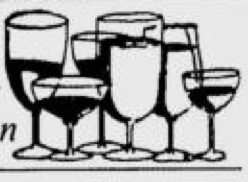
Early this year, the company informed the local bourse that it would change its name to Philgardens.com Inc. and focus on selling burial plots over the Internet.

Pryce has four memorial parks in Mindanao and plans to add two more.

*Doris Dumlao*

# Go-ing, go-ing...

**COCKTALES**



*By Victor C. Agustin*

INSTEAD of extricating himself and his bank, former Equitable PCI Bank chair George Go in his leaked statements issued from his secret hideaway managed to do just the opposite.

By his own admission, Go had summoned the bank's chief trust officer in the office of the President's private lawyer on Dec. 13, 2000, to sign a new set of Jose Velarde documents, knowing full well that:

1) the impeachment trial was already a week old;

2) the very same Jose Velarde documents were what the prosecution announced during the trial opening day as the "smoking gun" documents that would nail down you-know-who;

3) the substitute Jose Velarde documents had been antedated to Feb. 4, 2000, so as to remove the paper trail away from the main suspect.

And yet, despite his damning admissions, Go now wants the public to believe that neither he nor his bank were a party to a scheme designed, to borrow the phrase of Ateneo High School Class '55 valedictorian and co-conspirator Fernando Chua, "to protect the President."

Go should be thankful that he had been treated gingerly by the media by virtue of his and his bank's exalted position in the business community.

But if these are the kind of disjointed messages that he would continue to issue to the media, Go had better shut up, take the Joseph Estrada position, and pray that he would never be grilled at the witness stand.

After all, it has now become clear that he and his presidential friend are rowing the same boat.

## Drowning in losses

RAFAEL Alunan, whose new hat is that of the president of the Lopez-controlled Maynilad Water, is busy nowadays meeting with the media, government regulators, and key members of Congress.

Alunan the lobbyist is carrying a paradoxical message: allow Maynilad to increase its rates so that water-short Metro Manila residents would finally have cheap water.

When MWSS was privatized in 1997, Maynilad assumed $800 million of the government water agency's loans. But unlike the telephone and electric companies, Maynilad's franchise did not stipulate similar currency rate adjustment clauses as provided for in the other utilities.

Because of the devaluation of the peso to 51:$1 from 26.50, Maynilad had to absorb more than P2.2 billion in added foreign debt payments, money it had earlier allocated to expand its services and deliver water instead of air through its pipes.

Maynilad had now run down its capital reserves and would have to borrow $350 million from foreign lenders. Before it could do so, it needs the currency rate protection clause to assure the bankers somebody would eventually assume the exchange rate risk.

Joined by Ayala's Manila Water, Maynilad has therefore petitioned the government to pass on the exchange rate risk to the consumers, as well as recover the forex losses both utilities had incurred from 1997 to present.

To make a long story short, the water bills of Maynilad consumers would effectively be doubled if the petition is granted.

The proposal also means, ironically, that Juan dela Cruz would have to bail out a private corporation for the devastating oversight committed by its high-priced lawyers and foreign consultants.

The Alunan spiel is this. Assuming the increase would be granted—an additional P5.97/cubic meter would be added to the current Maynilad rate of P6.58/cu. m.—the new rate would still be cheaper than what Bulacan (P15.05/cu.m.) or Tagaytay (P26/cu.m.) residents pay for their untreated, deep-well water.

In contrast, waterless Batasan Hills residents fork out P30-per-200-liter drum to water contractors, effectively translating their water bill to P150/cu.m., or 10 times more than Maynilad's.

The rate increase would also enable Maynilad to finally connect the unserved Muntinlupa, Cavite City, Kawit, and key Cavite towns, whose residents now have to pay through their noses just to have "Nawasa" water delivered to their houses.

## Short takes

- THE INFORMATION volunteered by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile during the impeachment hearings as to how much P130 million in P1,000 bills weigh came from the Erap lawyers, specifically from the Fortun Narvasa lawyers.
- THE CLARIFICATION by Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura that Equitable PCI Bank had used its "secondary reserves" to service the upsurge in withdrawals meant that Equitable PCI Bank turned in or sold some of its treasury bill holdings to the central bank in order to avail itself of more cash.
- EQUITABLE PCI Bank has belatedly set up a crisis center, located at Tower 1's 21st floor, where the bank's top executives hold offices.

Strangely, despite the crisis center, the message to the press by its crisis PR managers when asked for any comment is the usual stock reply: "No comment."

## Heard through the grapevine

A TOTAL of 110 out of the 750 houses in Makati's San Lorenzo Village have either for sale or for rent signs.

*(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

# PDIC to absorb ₱9B worth of PNB's bad loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

STATE-OWNED Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. is now willing to absorb P9 billion worth of government-related bad loans of Philippine National Bank as part of payment for the bank's P10-billion emergency loan from PDIC.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which provided a similar emergency loan worth P15 billion to PNB, is willing to convert a portion of the short-term liquidity assistance into a long-term rehabilitation package for the ailing bank.

PNB's rehab plan, a move to help the fifth largest lender get back on a profitable track, could be approved by the BSP within the month, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The P25 billion in BSP and PDIC loans were extended by both government agencies in early October last year.

This was the same time when Tan pumped in P10 billion into PNB and some quarters were speculating that the taipan used government funds to finance the increase in his stake in PNB from 46 percent to 70 percent

Finance Secretary Jose T. Pardo explained that if the P9 billion was indeed liabilities of the government, then it was only fair for PNB that these be paid.

Buenaventura said the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund agreed that government liabilities must be taken out of PNB.

Pardo said that of the P9 billion in state-related bad loans of PNB, P3 billion represented principal and interests on PNB advances during the time of former President Aquino to imports inspector SGS.

Others date as far back to the time of the late dictator Marcos, including the loan to sugar trader Nasutra, Pardo added. He said a loan to PAL when it was still state-owned was also included in the P9 billion. PAL is now owned by Tan.

"My instructions to PDIC is to go over and review if these are indeed government advances. If the government really owed PNB, we have to make good on that because we have to help PNB return to viability," the finance chief said.

PNB's rehab plan would also include a reorganization of management, reduction of non-performing loans, sale of foreclosed assets, tightening of credit policies, and rationalization of operations.

The rehab plan also would likewise call for another P10 billion in fresh capital from Tan's group.

In 1999, PNB's net loss hit P9.87 billion, up from a net loss of P7.25 billion in 1998. As of September 2000, its bad loans peaked at 38 percent of the total loan portfolio.

PNB's sore finances had made the bank's immediate rehabilitation imperative.

With the P10-billion infusion from Tan in early October, PNB was expected to end 2000 with a much lower net loss of about P1 billion and to start posting modest earnings this year.

THIS SERIES on Philippine banking history is published in the business section of the **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)**, formerly El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2 (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

**PHILIPPINE BANKING**

## Did you know?

...that Mexican gold or silver currency brought in via the galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco (in Mexico) became an accepted means to facilitate commodity exchange in the Islands?

...that foreign trading firms engaged in the wholesale-retail business in the Philippines, also functioned as commission merchants, thus serving in a limited capacity as merchant bankers in the absence of a regular bank?

...that American trading firms in the Philippines during the Spanish regime also made short-term advances to crop-growers at interest, and accepted funds from customers, also at interest?

...that the first bank in the Philippine Islands, originally called *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2*, was established in Manila on August 1, 1851 but actual operations began in 1852?

150

# CEU to raise ₱3B from IPO this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

CENTRO Escolar University, the most profitable educational institution in the Philippines, is set to raise as much as P3 billion from an initial public offering (IPO) this year.

This was disclosed to the INQUIRER by CEU vice chair Ernesto Echauz, who explained that while CEU had been listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange since the 1980s, it has never conducted any IPO. This was because in the past, the PSE allowed the conversion of privately held shares into listed shares tradable on the exchange even without any portion offered to the public.

This means that the public could only buy CEU shares from the market if there were existing shareholders willing to sell out.

Echauz said CEU's planned IPO, equivalent to 20- to 30-percent stake in the company, was in line with its plan to embark into the "New School" or online education as well as to expand its business school. CEU directors approved in September last year a round of rights offering to issue additional shares to the public.

"Aside from providing funds to support expansion plans, the IPO will provide liquidity to its shares through additional volume of stocks traded in the market," he said.

The university has 372.4 million outstanding shares at present, of which around 60 percent is controlled by the Echauz family. This family also owns leading vehicle insurance firm Standard Insurance Co. Inc., which is also gearing up for an IPO this year.

The university appointed SB Capital, the investment banking arm of Security Bank and Trust Co., and Exchange Capital as lead underwriters for the offering. Consultancy firm Filamor Buenaventura Echauz was tapped as financial adviser and Quasha Ancheta Pena and Nolasco Law Office as legal counsel.

Echauz said it took a long time for the company to decide on the IPO because the other shareholders were not willing to be diluted. But with the university being groomed for a more ambitious expansion mode, it was believed that it was the right time to finally launch the IPO.

"The university is set to embark on an expansion mode that seeks to go beyond its physical boundaries and to take its education into the millennium's technological capabilities," CEU president Lourdes Echauz said in an earlier disclosure.

Echauz said the planned offering has generated a lot of interest from institutional investors abroad as well as from CEU's alumnae community abroad, but noted that the university would have to await a good timing within this year to ensure the success of this activity.

With all the political uncertainties affecting business confidence in the country, a lot of local companies are deferring their fund-raising activities.

Established in 1907 by Doña Librada Avelino and Carmen de Luna, CEU is one of the biggest universities in the country, offering courses in the fields of commerce, science, health-related sources, computer technology and the arts. Best known for allied medical courses such as dentistry, the university has 28,000 students.

In 2000, CEU posted a net income after tax of P205.35 million, up from P185.48 million in 1999 and P181.03 million in 1998. It has a book value of P2 billion and total assets of P2.39 billion as of end-2000.

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# Stock trading to remain weak despite cut in interest rates

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER another bearish week arising from the fatal Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila, the oversold stock market is seen to trade within a narrow range and thin liquidity this week, still hopelessly hostage to day-to-day developments in the impeachment trial against President Estrada.

Analysts said the trauma from the five separate bombings last weekend was not yet off the market's mind.

"The people stay guarded. If another bomb goes off then it will send more sleepless nights to the market," ING Barings Securities (Phils.) Inc. managing director Cesar Luis Bate said.

Bate said the market would likely see another range-bound trading this week, possibly with a downward bias. He said the main share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index—which tumbled 25 points last week to close at 1,469.08—could trade anywhere between a low of 1,400 and a high of 1,500.

"People are getting impatient over the results of the trial and are losing hope that the crisis will be resolved soon," Bate said, noting that current market conditions were still not enough for bargain-hunters to come in.

Last week, daily trading value turnover averaged at a historic low of P283 million as investors continued to avoid the local stock market, which has earned the notoriety of being the worst performer in Asia in 2000.

BPI Securities technical analyst Roberto Cano said investors were likely to maintain their short-term trading stance, taking advantage of the market's volatility.

"The focus will remain on the developments in the impeachment trial. While the country is mired in a crisis, there are hopes that the present administration or the next administration will learn from this crisis and implement changes that will improve the way the country is managed," Cano said.

"However, the political crisis besieging the country needs to be resolved first before we can regain investors' confidence. The Phisix has managed to stay above the uptrendline (from October 2000 to the present) and its sustained movement above the trendline is an indication of some accumulation. On the other hand, a break in the trendline support at 1,457 would likely signal weakness in stocks," he said.

Keppel Securities head of research Chris Canilanza, on the other hand, said the lowering of interest rates by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas this week, spurred by the 50-basis points cut by the US Federal Reserve last week, would do little to improve market sentiment.

"We expect more pressures to be mounted by the opposition to speed up the impeachment proceedings. If the President's lawyers should find ways to delay the process, this may be harmful to the financial markets," he said.

Canilanza predicted that snowballing protests would not permit the impeachment process to drag on to the May 2001 elections.

"We expect the market to continue to be crippled considering a thin fund flow. Given the thin trading, we see the index to further slide toward the 1,450 level. However, we do not discount very selective bargain-hunting by brave investors, which we expect will only add a few points to the market during the week up to the 1,486 level," he said.

# PAL expects surge in net profit to ₱500M

By Anthony O. Alcantara

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. is projecting a net profit of P500 million for its fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, up from only P46 million a year ago, as a result of improved operational efficiency.

PAL president Avelino L. Zapanta said the company was still confident about its target despite the ongoing impeachment trial of President Estrada, fuel price hikes and the recent bombings.

"There were cancellations (of flights) because of the recent bombings and tourists as well as investors have postponed their trips," Zapanta said.

He said the company still had to assess and quantify the effects of these key influences on the company's financial performance.

Zapanta also proposed that the government provide financial assistance to local airline companies and build the necessary airport facilities in order to meet its objective of transforming the country into a major transport hub in Asia.

He said that PAL as well as other local airline companies planning to fly international routes needed government support amid the pressures of air transport liberalization.

"What we need is close collaboration with the government," he said. "The Taiwan issue and the open sky declaration (of President Estrada) are already becoming real threats."

"The Taiwanese airlines have (offered) prices between US and Manila at about half the price we sell. And yet, for their own US-Taiwan prices, they are selling as much as we are pricing on the US-Manila. It is clear that they aim at the Balikbayan traffic."

The existing air agreement with Taiwan allows Taiwanese airlines to transport so-called 6th freedom traffic to the US via Taiwan. This means they can transport passengers from the Philippines to the US via Taiwan at much cheaper rates.

"How can we compete with them if there are no transit facilities in Manila comparable to Taiwan or Korea?

Our airport here cannot handle the demands," Zapanta said.

He also explained how Singapore became a transport hub through government support. Aside from providing funds to its national flag carrier, the Singapore government invested in a first-class airport to develop its air transport industry.

Last month, the Department of Transportation and Communications formed a task force that would help finalize the proposed executive order that would fast-track the liberalization of the air industry.

Transport Secretary Vicente C. Rivera Jr. earlier said the various concerns of different groups must be taken into account in drafting the final version of the executive order.

The new EO would enhance EO 219, which the administration of President Estrada has deemed insufficient and ineffective in bringing about the true spirit and objectives of liberalization.

Zapanta said PAL was "not closed-minded to liberalization."

"We are also for liberalization, but you can't just go for liberalization without studying it. There's no country in the world with real open skies. You have to regulate it. That's why we want to clarify what the government means by open skies," he said.

# SEC junks bid of brokers on access to bank accounts

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is standing pat on its decision to require broker-dealers seeking a renewal of licenses to give the regulatory agency continuing authority to look into their bank accounts.

An SEC official said that the Commission en banc, in a meeting last Thursday, rejected the request of some member-brokers of the Philippine Stock Exchange to be exempted from the requirement.

The SEC official said that the agency agreed there could be no exemption to the bank authority requirement given that many of the other member-brokers for the exchange were not complaining.

Last Friday, PSE president Ramon Garcia and PSE chief operating officer and senior vice president Jose Cervantes met with SEC brokers and exchanges department officer-in-charge Jose Aquino to clarify the bank authority requirement as well as other provisions of the new implementing rules and regulations of the Securities Regulation Code.

Garcia said that there was no specific provision of the law that gave the SEC the right to require the bank authority and that such requirement was being questioned by members of the exchange as violative of the law on bank secrecy.

Some broker-dealers were also questioning why the requirement also covered giving SEC the authority to look into bank accounts of broker-dealers' subsidiaries and affiliates.

The SEC official said that the PSE officials were assured that the authority to look into bank accounts would not be abused because this would need a permit from the department head and would require consultation with the Commission.

The SEC official said those broker-dealers who have substantially complied with the requirements in their application for a renewal of licenses or about 90 percent of total applicants would be issued provisional licenses to operate.

The Commission, the official said, has also agreed not to renew licenses of those who have voluntary suspended their operations despite their applications for a renewal.

There were fears by those broker-dealers that if they don't apply now for a renewal, a future application would be subject to the more stringent requirements covering new applicants such as the P100-million paid-up capital.

The SEC official said that the Commission would decide later on how to treat applications of such broker-dealers.

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| Makati Sports Club "B" | | 500,000 |
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| Manila Golf (Individual) | 13,500,000 | 15,000,000 |
| Manila Polo | 2,600,000 | - |
| Manila Southwoods "A" | 800,000 | 850,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "B" | 850,000 | 920,000 |
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| Puerto Azul | 130,000 | 150,000 |
| Quezon City Sports Club | - | 250,000 |
| Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"/"B"/"C" | Please Call | Please Call |
| Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C" | Please Call | Please Call |
| Sta. Elena "A" | - | 1,900,000 |
| Sta. Elena "B" | - | 2,100,000 |
| Subic Bay Yacht (Corp.) | | Please Call |
| Subic Bay Yacht (Ind.) | - | Please Call |
| Tagaytay Country Club | 450,000 | 500,000 |
| Tagaytay Highlands | 1,050,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Midlands | 850,000 | 900,000 |
| Valle Verde (Ind) | 160,000 | - |
| Valley Golf | - | 330,000 |
| Wack-Wack Golf Club | 7,100,000 | 7,400,000 |

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manila Golf | 450,000 | Valle Verde | 15,000 |

(Available Lessors)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alabang "A" | 40,000 | Mimosa Golf | 20,000 |
| Calatagan "A" | 15,000 | Orchard "A" | 20,000 |
| Canlubang | 70,000 | Riviera "A" | 15,000 |
| Eagleridge | 30,000 | Sta. Elena | 70,000 |
| Eastridge "A" | 20,000 | Tagaytay CC | 30,000 |
| Forest Hills | 30,000 | Tagaytay Golf | 65,000 |
| Manila Southwoods | 50,000 | Tivoli Royale | 20,000 |
| Makati Sports "A" | 35,000 | Valley Golf | 20,000 |
| Manila Golf | 500,000 | Wack-Wack | 90,000 |

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| SPECIAL SALE | | BUYING | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Midlands | P 880 000 | Southwoods | P 800 000 |
| Highlands | P 510 000 | Baguio | 750 000 |
| Valley golf | 280 000 | Riviera | 280 000 |
| Wack Wack | 7.4M | Camp John Hay | 350 000 |

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2000

| | | SELLING | BUYING |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 1,600,000 | 1,850,000 |
| 2 | ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 1,050,000 | |
| 3 | BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 750 000 | 700,000 |
| 4 | CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 150 000 | |
| 5 | CAMP JOHN HAY | 400,000 | 320,000 |
| 6 | CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 850 000 | |
| 7 | CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 850,000 | |
| 8 | CITY SPORTS CLUB CEBU | Pls. Call | |
| 9 | COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS | 450,000 | |
| 10. | CLUB FILIPINO | 310,000 | |
| 11 | EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A" | 250,000 | |
| 12. | EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A" | 400 000 | |
| 13. | EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A" | 200,000 | |
| 14. | FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER | Pls. Call | |
| 15 | FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 300,000 | |
| 16. | FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 550,000 | |
| 17 | FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C" | 600,000 | |
| 18 | MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A" | 500,000 | |
| 19 | MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B" | 500,000 | |
| 20 | MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP) | 1,500,000 | |
| 21 | MANILA POLO CLUB | 1,000,000 | |
| 22 | MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A" | 1,000,000 | 850,000 |
| 23 | MANILA YACHT CLUB | 850,000 | |
| 24 | METROPOLITAN CLUB "A" | 170,000 | |
| 25 | METROPOLITAN CLUB "B" | 200,000 | 160,000 |
| 26. | MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.) | 500,000 | |
| 27 | MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (CORP) | 800,000 | |
| 28 | ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| 29 | ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B" | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| 30 | ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C" | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| 31. | QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB | 240,000 | |
| 32 | RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 250,000 | |
| 33 | RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 500,000 | |
| 34 | ROYAL NORTHWOODS | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| 35 | STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB | | 1,000,000 |
| 36 | SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND) | 300,000 | |
| 37 | SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (CORP) | 800,000 | |
| 38. | TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB | | 1,000,000 |
| 39 | TAGAYTAY MIDLAND | 900,000 | |
| 40 | VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB | 180,000 | |
| 41. | VALLE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 350,000 | |
| 42. | WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | | 7,300,000 |

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## Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, January 5, 2001)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 7.40 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 6,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 57.50 | 58 | 57.5 | 58 | 64,500 |
| China Banking Corp. | 750.0 | 750 | 750 | 750 | 12,200 |
| Chinatrust Comm. Bank | 18.00 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 500 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 54.00 | 54 | 53 | 53.5 | 19,100 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 184.0 | 185 | 183 | 184 | 161,130 |
| Philippine National Bank | 38.50 | 38.5 | 37 | 37 | 44,600 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 30.00 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 4,400 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 31.50 | 32 | 31.5 | 32 | 48,300 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 171,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1375 | 1380 | 1370 | 1375 | 3,830 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 30,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1220 | 1250 | 1190 | 1220 | 19,290 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 49.00 | 49.5 | 49 | 49.5 | 68,500 |
| Diversified Fin. Network | 9.00 | 9.3 | 7.7 | 9.3 | 5,000 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | .4500 | .45 | .43 | .43 | 480,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | .4500 | .45 | .44 | .45 | 420,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 4.00 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 75,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 875.0 | 880 | 870 | 870 | 71,150 |
| Philweb.com Inc. | .0360 | .037 | .034 | .034 | 66,200,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. "A" | 45.00 | 46 | 45 | 46 | 39,300 |
| Manila Electric Co. "B" | 48.50 | 48.5 | 47.5 | 48 | 444,100 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.20 | 1.2 | 1.16 | 1.2 | 1,849,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l SV | .7300 | .73 | .73 | .73 | 50,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | .4400 | .57 | .44 | .57 | 390,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Alsons Cement Corp. | .1750 | .175 | .175 | .175 | 1,070,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | .3300 | .33 | .33 | .33 | 80,000 |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | .7100 | .71 | .71 | .71 | 30,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.00 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 9.70 | 9.7 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 60,000 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 30.50 | 30.5 | 30 | 30.5 | 39,000 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 1.60 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 50,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. "A" | 48.50 | 50 | 48 | 50 | 86,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. "B" | 53.50 | 54.5 | 53.5 | 54.5 | 43,700 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 7.30 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 431,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1,000 |
| Alliance Global Group Inc. | 12.25 | 12.25 | 11.5 | 12 | 1,800 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | .8100 | .81 | .81 | .81 | 80,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | .1800 | .18 | .18 | .18 | 300,000 |
| Anglo Phil. Holdings Corp. | .4000 | .4 | .4 | .4 | 20,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.12 | 2.18 | 2.12 | 2.18 | 17,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 2.00 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 2.90 | 2.9 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 3,005,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | .2700 | .27 | .27 | .27 | 300,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | .2000 | .21 | .2 | .21 | 200,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | .2700 | .27 | .27 | .27 | 340,000 |
| Ebecom Holdings Inc. | .0850 | .085 | .085 | .085 | 400,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | .0460 | .046 | .046 | .046 | 1,000,000 |
| First Phil. Hldgs. Corp. | 20.50 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 15,200 |
| Global Equities Inc. | .3300 | .33 | .33 | .33 | 200,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 14.50 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 378,700 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 2.04 | 2.06 | 2.02 | 2.02 | 55,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 2.10 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 35,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | .5800 | .58 | .58 | .58 | 3,420,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | .4800 | .48 | .43 | .43 | 1,250,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | .3400 | .35 | .29 | .29 | 57,080,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Macondray Plastics Inc. | 6.40 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 57,000 |
| Music Corp. | 2.90 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | .5400 | .54 | .54 | .54 | 200,000 |
| Philippine Seven Corp. | 6.90 | 7 | 6.9 | 7 | 51,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 7 80 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 13,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | .6400 | .64 | .64 | .64 | 360,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | .7500 | .77 | .75 | .76 | 1,640,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | .3900 | .39 | .39 | .39 | 520,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR) | 49.50 | 50 | 49.5 | 50 | 369,600 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref. | 560.0 | 560 | 560 | 560 | 100 |
| Equitable PCI Bank-War | 2.90 | 2.9 | 2.85 | 2.9 | 302,000 |
| Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR) | 675.0 | 690 | 675 | 690 | 8,750 |
| Omico Corp. Warrant | .0026 | .0026 | .0026 | .0026 | 10,000,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,400 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.40 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 4,638,000 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | .3000 | .3 | .3 | .3 | 100,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | .4000 | .4 | .4 | .4 | 10,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | .1850 | .185 | .185 | .185 | 300,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | .3100 | .32 | .3 | .32 | 16,140,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.32 | 1.34 | 1.32 | 1.34 | 3,493,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc. | 1.00 | 1 | .8 | 1 | 332,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | .3000 | .32 | .3 | .32 | 270,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.50 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 3,650,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B" | .0048 | .0048 | .0048 | .0048 | 2,000,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "A" | .1900 | .19 | .19 | .19 | 30,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "B" | .2000 | .2 | .2 | .2 | 70,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. "A" | .0060 | .006 | .006 | .006 | 37,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. "B" | .0060 | .006 | .006 | .006 | 2,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. "A" | .2200 | .22 | .22 | .22 | 20,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Interport Res. | .0050 | .005 | .005 | .005 | 5,000,000 |
| Pacifica | .0150 | .015 | .014 | .014 | 3,000,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | .3000 | .3 | .3 | .3 | 80,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l. | .1900 | .19 | .19 | .19 | 30,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 584,850 | 75,858,790.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 153,618,200 | 169,496,395.00 |
| PRO | 28,933,000 | 55,491,820.00 |
| Mining | 41,120,000 | 267,700.00 |
| OIL | 8,110,000 | 97,700.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 232,366,050 | 301,212,405.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 542.27 | DOWN 3.50 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 2,076.08 | DOWN 4.69 |
| PRO | 497.86 | UP0.65 |
| Mining | 1,227.15 | DOWN 3.93 |
| OIL | 1.71 | UNCH 0.00 |
| All Shares Index | 790.23 | DOWN27.47 |
| Composite | 1,469.08 | DOWN 6.03 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 34; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 90; NO. OF TRADES: 1,855

## CURRENCIES

Jan. 05, 2001

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.052964 | 1.000000 | 50.9530 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.009103 | 0.008645 | 0.4405 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.581552 | 1.502000 | 76.5314 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.135001 | 0.128210 | 6.5327 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.655807 | 0.622820 | 31.7345 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.702726 | 0.667379 | 34.0050 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.607385 | 0.576834 | 29.3914 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.594828 | 0.564908 | 28.7838 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.793157 | 2.652661 | 135.1610 |
| Kuwait | Dinar | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.280806 | 0.266681 | 13.5882 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.607701 | 0.577134 | 29.4067 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000112 | 0.000106 | 0.0054 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024235 | 0.023016 | 1.1727 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.286716 | 0.272294 | 13.8742 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000834 | 0.000792 | 0.0404 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.949700 | 48.3901 |
| Germany | Mark | 0.511292 | 0.485574 | 24.7415 |
| France | Franc | 0.152450 | 0.144781 | 7.3770 |
| Netherlands | Guilder | 0.453780 | 0.430955 | 21.9585 |
| Austria | Schilling | 0.072672 | 0.069017 | 3.5166 |
| Belgium | Franc | 0.024789 | 0.023542 | 1.1995 |
| Italy | Lire | 0.000516 | 0.000490 | 0.0250 |
| Finland | Markka | 0.168188 | 0.159728 | 8.1386 |
| Portugal | Escudo | 0.004988 | 0.004737 | 0.2414 |
| Spain | Peseta | 0.006010 | 0.005708 | 0.2908 |
| Luxemburg | Franc | 0.024789 | 0.023542 | 1.1995 |
| Ireland | Punt | 1.269738 | 1.20587 | 61.4427 |

# Stocks are going up

**ON THE MONEY**

*John Mangun*

FOR SOME time, I have wanted to discuss the problem of corruption on our local stock exchange.

Corruption is defined as an organization or person that is characterized by improper conduct. This corruption has existed thorough the tenures of three chairs of the Securities and Exchange Commission and several Philippine Stock Exchange presidents. However, since everyone is being bombarded with tales of political corruption every afternoon on television, I am going to hold off until I think I might get your attention. Don't worry; the corrupt practices will still be occurring by the time I write about it. No one has yet been concerned enough to do anything about it. On the political front, though, there may be some changes by this coming election.

It is a genuine revelation observing the senators you voted for doing their job and not simply campaigning. I know that most everyone has thought, "How was that fool able to be elected?" or "I am glad that person is helping to run the country." It is said that difficult times bring out the best and the worst in people. The impeachment trial proves that beyond a reasonable doubt. Maybe I am being too optimistic (again), but I do not believe that Filipino politics is ever going to be the same again. The May election may be another turning point in the evolution of our democratic government.

Last week, a momentous event happened in the United States. The Federal Reserve lowered interest rates by one-half percentage point. This move was very unusual in that it did not take place during a scheduled committee meeting. Last month the Fed only varied its rate bias so this change came without warning. The last 12 years of Fed history has been characterized by "fine-tuning" of interest rates. This time, however, Greenspan pushed the economic accelerator to the floor. His move only reinforces my view that the US economy is in deep, deep trouble. The US stock market over-reacted again and is ready for a serious slide.

Once our impeachment trial is finished, our government must take considerable and careful attention to the US problem. Or we are going to have an economic problem that will make the impeachment look like a happy fiesta. It is too bad that an experienced and qualified businessperson is not in the running to lead the Philippines. A university business education is not what it takes to understand how to run a business or a nation's economy. It takes a person with hands-on experience who understands the "hows" and "whys" of profits and losses.

Our stock market needs to break and hold above 1,550 on the Phisix index to signal a move to the 1,750 level. My friend Franky has a downward bias to the 1,100 area. But I see more of an upside potential. Don't misunderstand me though. We are facing a difficult uphill climb. 1,500 is a very strong resistance level meaning we need a large amount of fresh cash buying to break through. If the breakthrough comes, momentum will move prices higher quickly.

Now you are thinking that with politics, high interest rates, the budget deficit and all the rest, it can only be dreaming that the market will go up. That is the conventional wisdom (CW). And conventional wisdom is all you ever hear in the press and media. It is unlikely that any daily analysis about the stock market will say anything else. The stockbroker I consult for, I.B. Gimenez Securities, is never quoted because its views do not mirror the current CW. The CW always tries to put the stock market in a bottle labeled "External Factors" and CW is usually wrong.

Stock prices do not accurately reflect politics, personality, government policy, or economic projections. If prices did, two things would be true. First, the Phisix would be trading at 1,100 because all the above factors are "worse" today than when the index last rested at 1,100. Secondly, there would be a strong consistency among individual stocks. Last week I spoke of Price Earnings Ratios (PER). Based on the first nine months of 2000, the PER of Phisix Index stocks range from a PER of 200 to a low of 2.

No matter how much the economists and other unknowledgeable people want to put the stock market in a box, all neatly tied up with conventional wisdom, they are wrong.

Our market is down 30 percent over the last 12 months. Thailand is down 40 percent, Taiwan is down more than 40 percent, and the US Nasdaq is down 35 percent. In addition, Singapore is down 20 percent and, conversely, Germany is up 10 percent. And in Shanghai, prices are up almost 200 percent. Why the large disparity? Politics, personality, government policy, or economic projections cannot account for it.

I believe there are only two "factors" that you should look at in the broad picture to forecast stock prices. These are the growth of the money supply and the attitude toward interest rates paid on bank deposits. If the amount of money in circulation grows substantially without inflation and the perception is that banks pay too little for deposited funds, the stock market will rise. That is what has happened in the US for the last six years. Philippine economic growth is conservatively at 4.5 percent. Inflation is at 7 percent. However, money supply growth was more than 15 percent in 2000. That means, after inflation, there is about 8 percent more money in the system looking for a home. Further, no one would say that banks here are generous with their deposit rates even on longer-term time deposits. In 1998, money growth was small, inflation was higher, and the stock market was much lower.

The stock market is fueled by money. If the current trend continues and there is plenty of money available and bank rates are unattractive, stock prices will go higher. That is my forecast for 2001.

*(John Mangun can be reached at Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at jm@epic.net.)*

# ETPI invests $5M in new Internet technology

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

EASTERN Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has invested $5 million for a technology that uses fiber optic technology to deliver high-speed Internet and data access to high-end clients.

ETPI vice president and Internet business unit head Joevel E. Rivera said the company's new service, called Gigabit Internet Access, would eliminate last-mile bottlenecks for corporate Internet users.

"The Gigabit Internet infrastructure addresses one of the major problems of delivering Internet services in the country. This is the availability of the big pipes into the customer premise, the elimination of the last mile bottleneck," he said.

ETPI has installed fiber optic cables in Makati, Ortigas and Eastwood Park to provide almost unlimited amount of bandwidth to customers. Before Gigabit Internet, broadband access was only available in megabit speed. Gigabit Internet is thousands of times faster than the usual megabit speed broadband access.

Rivera said the delivery of information via Gigabit Internet is more efficient since the content is transported using Ethernet, which bypasses the various protocol translations that take place in the traditional setup.

"The Internet has significantly been changing the way companies are doing business. The technology has introduced new avenues of delivering information and enhancing channels to reach customer and vendors," he said.

He pointed out that the technology would be particularly useful to B2B (business to business) transactions. He said the success of B2B does not only depend on a spectacular site and advanced technology supporting the site.

"No matter how good the site was designed and made, it will not succeed if it cannot be accessed reliably and fast," he said.

"In a procurement exchange site for example, it probably will be more efficient for a procurement officer to call his vendors than to wait for the screen to display the site he is accessing. As more intelligence and information are accessed from these sites, the faster the delivery should be," he said.

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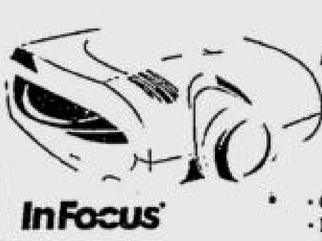

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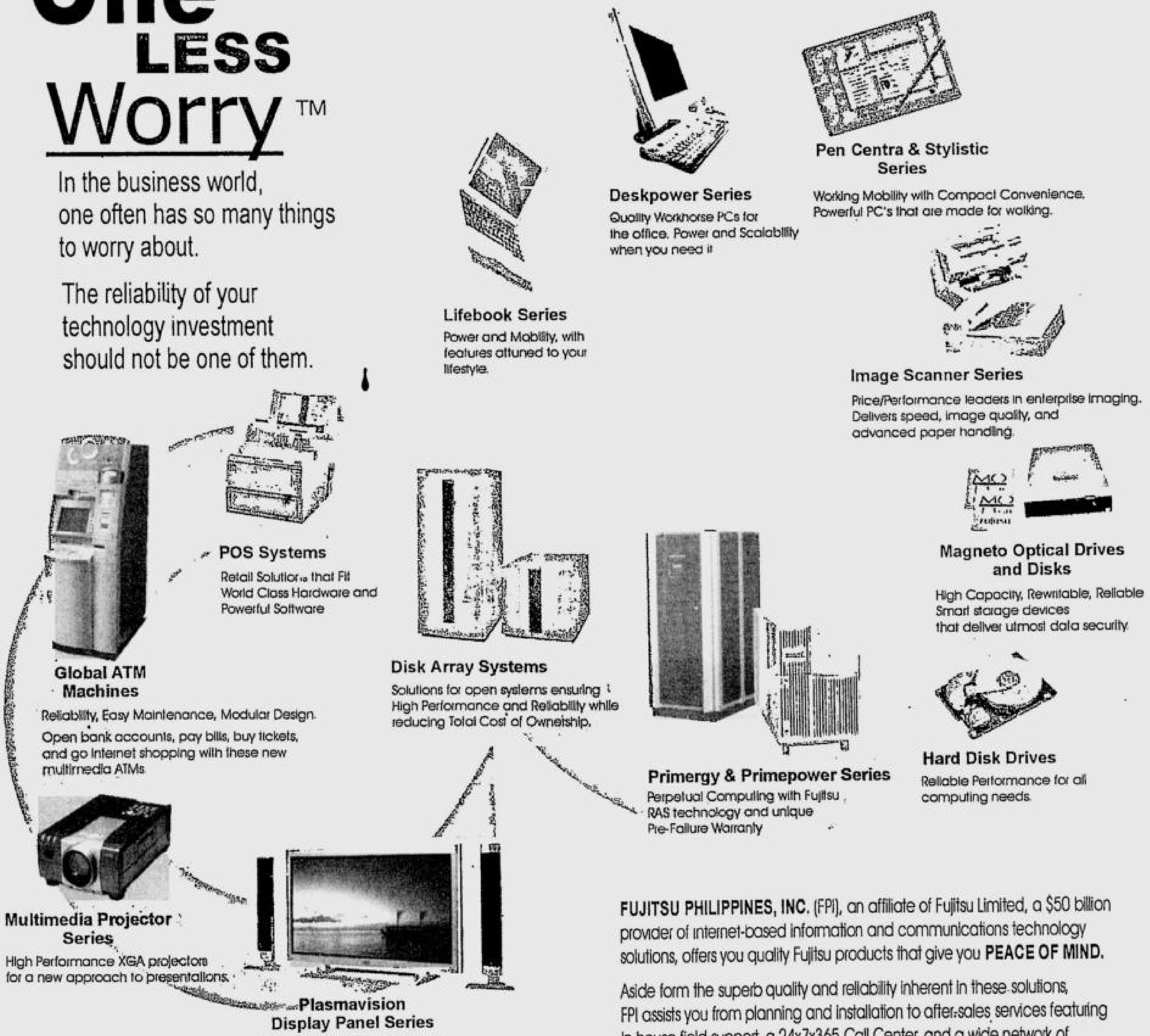

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### SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER

# IMF to trim global growth forecast for 2001

NEW ORLEANS—A leading International Monetary Fund official said Friday the Washington-based lender would "significantly" lower its forecast for global growth for this year to better reflect recent slowing.

Speaking prior to participating in a panel discussion at the American Economic Association conference here, IMF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer said the Fund would downgrade its forecast made in September but offered no specifics. In September, the IMF predicted the global economy would grow by 4.2 percent in 2001.

"Relative to what we had in September (it will be down)," Fischer told Reuters. "We don't know how much we're going to revise it down because we're just going through the calculations. But it will be down significantly. I don't know how much."

The comments were the latest from senior IMF officials indicating that a slowing economy in the United States and elsewhere, as well as a sustained oil shock, would lead it to lower its earlier forecast.

Friday's edition of the Financial Times carried similar comments from the fund's chief economist, Michael Mussa, who leads the team of economists that compile the IMF's closely watched global growth forecast.

Mussa told the newspaper the revision would be "meaningful" but also was light on specifics. "The data in recent weeks suggest some general slowing across the global economy, most pronounced in the US and Japan, and signs of slowing among the large economies of Europe," Mussa said.

Already in recent months, the IMF has cut its growth forecast for numerous European nations and the 11-nation euro bloc as a whole to reflect the effect of a prolonged spike in oil prices.

Those lower forecasts, coupled with the slowing in the United States and Japan, had led many to believe the IMF would be forced to revise its global growth forecasts before its next scheduled public update of the World Economic Outlook in April.

Earlier this week, the powerful US Federal Reserve unexpectedly lowered key short-term interest rates by a half a percentage point four weeks before its next scheduled policy-setting meeting.

The move was aimed at bolstering a US economy that was slowing much faster than most experts had anticipated.

But while the IMF will lower its global growth forecasts, officials have made clear they do not expect a recession in the United States.

Just last week, the IMF said a sustained oil price shock could dampen global growth prospects, knocking a quarter of a percentage point off its global growth forecast for 2001.

The fund's growth forecast of a 4.2-percent growth was based on the assumption that the price of oil would be $23 a barrel. Oil prices are currently trading around $28 a barrel after soaring to nearly $38 in September.

The IMF said a high oil price would bite deeper into growth in industrialized countries than in the developing world, with real gross domestic product in the United States and euro area each taking a 0.4-percent hit in 2001 and 2002. *Reuters*

## Nokia's cell phone share grew in Q3

TOKYO—Nokia Oyj's share of the worldwide handset market grew in the third quarter of 2000, the only company among the world's top three makers of mobile phones to gain, according to market researcher Dataquest Inc.

Finland-based Nokia held on to the No. 1 position with a 30.6-percent share, up from 27.5 percent in the second quarter, the unit of Stamford, Connecticut-based Gartner Group Inc. said. Motorola Inc., the No. 2 maker, saw its share slide to 13.3 percent from 15.6 percent. No. 3 Ericsson AB's share fell to 9.7 percent from 10.3 percent.

In addition to Nokia, Motorola and Ericsson are facing competition from a host of rivals, including Germany's Siemens AB, which boosted its share ranking by two notches. Competition also comes from Japan's Matsushita Communication Industrial Co., which aims to increase its share of the global market to 10 percent by 2003 from about 5 percent now.

"The market is getting only one top maker instead of three," Dataquest said in a release issued by Gartner Group Japan KK. Combined, Nokia, Motorola and Ericsson accounted for 53.6 percent of the market, little changed from 53.4 percent in the second quarter, it said.

Overall, shipments of mobile phones in the July-September, period rose to 105 million units, up from 98 million in the second quarter and 90 million in the first. If handset sales kept the same pace in the fourth quarter, total shipments in 2000 would reach 420 million, Dataquest said. *Bloomberg*

## Japan econ chief bucks stock steps

TOKYO—Japanese Economics Minister Fukushiro Nukaga said Saturday it would be inappropriate for the government to take measures to boost domestic stock prices.

"I don't think it is a good idea for the government to take measures on stock prices. Stock price movements should be left to the market," the minister for economic and fiscal policy said at a news conference after a sweeping ministry reshuffle was implemented.

But Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma said while he was opposed to "price-keeping operations"—using public funds to buy stocks to boost prices—he would consider other measures proposed by lawmakers.

Shizuka Kamei, the powerful policy chief of the dominant Liberal Democratic Party, has been urging the government to take steps to prop up the ailing stock market.

He has called for measures to prevent an unwinding of cross-shareholdings and stem selling of shares by foreigners.

Separately, Ichizo Ohara, a senior LDP lawmaker, has proposed radical measures to help bolster Tokyo share prices, including allowing banks to use shareholdings to repay public funds.

The LDP has set up a new task force on stock-price stabilization to be launched by the end of January.

On the economy, Nukaga reiterated that although a recovery trend continued, the economy was not a solid recovery track yet.

With the US and Asian economies slowing, "economic management is at a critical juncture," he said. *Reuters*

A CAR speeds past the eToys building in Los Angeles. The troubled Internet toy retailer is slashing its workforce by more than two-thirds and plans to close its European operations. The company announced after markets closed Thursday that 700 of its 1,000 eToys and BabyCenter employees would be let go. About 380 were fired Thursday while the rest would lose their jobs by the end of March, when the company might run out of operating cash.
AP

## US Dec. unemployment steady at 4%

WASHINGTON—The US unemployment rate held steady at 4 percent in December as the number of workers on payrolls grew modestly, adding to signs of an economic slowing already well under way in the world's largest economy.

The number of jobs outside the farm sector grew by 105,000 after a sharply downwardly revised gain of 59,000 in November, the US Labor Department said in its closely watched monthly employment report. November's increase had previously been reported as a more vibrant 94,000.

December's payrolls growth slightly exceeded forecasts by analysts, who had on average predicted a rise of 102,000.

The department said more than half of the overall jobs growth was accounted for by the government while US manufacturers continued to bleed jobs—extending a pattern of slowing jobs growth in the economy's private sector.

"Job losses occurred throughout the goods-producing sector of the economy," the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics commissioner Katharine Abraham said in a statement She added that bad weather had depressed construction activity, where 13,000 jobs were lost in December.

Overall, Abraham said, nearly 180,000 factory jobs were lost over the course of last year

Friday's data are the latest in a series of reports depicting a downturn in the once-buoyant US economy after almost a decade of uninterrupted growth.

The weakness in the manufacturing sector was seen as one of the key factors that prompted the Federal Reserve this week to slash key short-term interest rates by an aggressive half percentage point and promise more rate cuts if necessary.

Financial markets widely expect the central bank to cut rates further when policymakers hold their next meeting on Jan. 30 to 31 as they try to keep the record US expansion on track.

"While the economy obviously is slowing, perhaps this report may lessen fears of a worst-case scenario," said Oscar Gonzalez, an economist at John Hancock Financial Services in Boston. "The economy may be slowing in the way the Fed has hoped for."

The Fed had raised borrowing costs six times between June 1999 and May of last year to prevent the US economy from overheating, hoping to trim excessive demand growth and bring it closer in line with the economy's potential to produce.

Many in financial markets initially took heart from the fact that the jobs data came in close to expectations. But US stock prices quickly turned sour as investors worried that major US banks could be whacked by losses from their lending to struggling utilities in California.

Inflation-sensitive bond prices rose while the US dollar gained ground against other major currencies.

The department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which compiles the report, said non-farm payrolls grew by a total of about 1.9. million in 2000, far below 1999's gain of 2.8 million.

Still, US Labor Secretary Alexis Herman said there was little in the overall employment situation to suggest a looming recession—a threat invoked by the incoming administration of President-elect George W. Bush. He and his team have argued the prospect of a slump heightens the need for a massive tax cut that has been a centerpiece of Bush's election campaign.

"I don't think this report indicates things are bleak as some are saying," Herman told reporters "The fundamentals of this economy are still strong."

Complicating the outlook for Fed policy may be a somewhat higher-than-expected rise in average hourly earnings, which climbed 0.4 percent in December -more than the 0.3-percent increase expected by analysts in a Reuters survey.

Over the year as a whole, average hourly earnings rose 4.2 percent, up from the 3.5-percent increase recorded over 1999.

"Inflation concerns coming from labor costs and energy are likely to resurface at the next (Fed) meeting," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo Bank in Minneapolis.

Rising earnings could signal mounting price pressures in the huge US economy, which could make the inflation-wary Fed reluctant to cut rates as quickly as many economists expect. *Reuters*

## Fed rate cuts to help stocks long term

NEW YORK—The Federal Reserve's interest rate cut is expected to lend support to the slowing economy but, as Wall Street quickly learned, it is no panacea for the stock market's woes.

After rallying spectacularly Wednesday in response to the Fed's move, stocks plunged Friday on earnings worries and rumors of credit and loan losses related to the economy's weakness. The slide nearly erased the market's big gain, including the largest one-day advance ever in the Nasdaq composite index.

Why the sharp rise and then steep decline?

"We had a relief rally Wednesday, relief that the Fed would not let the economy go into an abyss," said Jim Weiss, chief investment officer at State Street Research. "The reason the market then faded is that we woke up from our reverie and thought, 'What about earnings?' and realized interest rates don't address earnings."

That was not to say the Fed's move was insignificant. Long-term, interest rate cuts could provide relief for a lot of the problems plaguing stocks: weak corporate earnings, soft consumer demand and waning consumer confidence.

But most market watchers expect it will take at least six months for the effects of the rate cut to work their way through the economy and show up in productivity, manufacturing and employment data—and, eventually, higher stock prices.

"Lower interest lowers the costs of borrowing money to do business and could help make the US dollar weaker, improving currency rate translations for companies doing business overseas," said Dan Laufenberg, chief US economist at American Express. "Those gains may come late in the first quarter but probably not soon enough to save it as far as earnings are concerned."

"Possibly, it will help the second quarter, but there's a chance it won't," he said.

In the immediate future, the effects of a rate cut are far less grand and much more fleeting.

"The short-term impact has already been felt, the psychological impact, that something is being done about this," said Christian, the Wilmington Trust analyst.

But the rush didn't last. Instead, he said that investors began to dwell on why the Fed felt it was necessary to cut rates after an emergency conference call rather than wait until its regularly scheduled meeting later this month.

"That suggests that the Fed seeing something in the economy that is not doing too well and saying, 'Gee, we better start cutting rates,'" Christian said.

Many on Wall Street expect the Fed to cut rates again, although no one is quite sure when.

A few such cuts could help boost consumer confidence, rescuing the retail sector, which is reeling from its worst holiday sales period in years, speculated Weiss, the State Street Research analyst. *AP*

## AOL-Time Warner deal delayed

WASHINGTON—America Online Inc. faces further delays in gaining US approval to buy Time Warner Inc. as regulators review access to the combined media and Internet company's cable television lines and other issues.

Federal Communications Commission staff last week asked a coalition of Internet service providers for language defining local and regional ISPs. The FCC might use the definitions to require AOL Time Warner to open cable lines to rivals, said W. Scott McCollough, a lawyer for the Texas Internet Service Providers Association.

America Online, which announced the purchase a year ago, had urged regulators to approve the $111-billion combination by the end of last year. Continuing talks between the industry and FCC have prolonged a regulatory review that has taken almost a year.

"We continue to have a concern that there will be a place for us in the Time Warner system," McCollough said. "There needs to be some official recognition that all the big guys ain't gonna get all the slots."

The group of Internet providers planned to submit proposed language to the FCC by Monday at the latest, said Stephen Heins, director of marketing at Oshkosh, Wisconsin-based NorthNet LLC. They alerted the FCC to the matter this week.

The FCC waited for the Federal Trade Commission to rule on the combination last month before tackling the remaining issues raised by rivals. Negotiations with different industry groups, as well as among the five commissioners, have dragged on, though analysts still expect imminent FCC approval. *Bloomberg*

## Chinese firms post $2.75B in lost assets

BEIJING—Some 22.9 billion yuan ($2.75 billion) in assets at leading Chinese state-owned enterprises went missing in 2000 despite a widespread lack of reliable accounting methods in the sector, state press reported.

And 11 percent of the total assets of the 1,290 large and medium state-run enterprises audited, or 74.3 billion yuan, were deemed to be non-performing, auditor general Li Jinhua of the State Auditing Administration was quoted by the Xinhua news agency as saying.

Unreliable accounting methods were being used in 68 percent of the enterprises, posing a huge obstacle to the government's efforts to clear up the financial situation of the burdensome sector, he said.

The Chinese government had pledged to bring the state-run enterprise sector out of its difficulties in three years ending last December.

Xinhua last month said the state enterprise turnaround was "basically achieved." *AFP*

## Seagram sells group to Pernor

PARIS—Pernod Ricard has announced that it had signed jointly with Diageo an agreement to purchase the Seagram Spirits and Wine business from Vivendi Universal for $8.15 billion in cash, on a debt-free basis.

Pernod Ricard would contribute approximately $3.15 billion, or 38.6 percent of the total purchase price.

Pernod Ricard and Diageo would split the Seagram business based on the framework agreement signed between the two companies as previously announced.

The joint acquisition is subject to the consent of the relevant competent authorities. The necessary filings have been prepared and will be submitted shortly.

Patrick Ricard, chair and chief executive of Pernod Ricard, said: "I would like to say how excited we are by this acquisition, which represents a unique opportunity to redefine the industry worldwide. I believe that Seagram's magnificent portfolio of brands has a distinguished heritage and a great future within our group. Together with Diageo, we at Pernod Ricard look forward to working with the employees of Seagram to realize the strong potential that exists to grow our enlarged business."

## Big carmakers need to look to their teamwork

DETROIT, Michigan—When John Devine joined the world's largest automaker as chief financial officer in December, he cheerfully predicted that General Motors Corp. would be one of the few survivors in a consolidating industry.

"I think we're seeing an enormous change in this automotive business around the world," said Devine, who spent all but one year of his 33-year career at GM rival Ford Motor Co. before joining GM.

"There's going to be an enormous separation, a sort-out of the business. At the end of that time, there's going to be a few winners and lots of losers."

Over the past decade, six supergroups have emerged as the dominant players in the global auto industry, according to Michael Robinet, director of global forecasting at CSM Worldwide in Northville, Michigan.

The Big Six—US titans General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co., Japan's Toyota Motor Corp., Germany's Volkswagen AG and DaimlerChrysler AG, and France's Renault—have buttressed their position by swallowing up smaller competitors and forging strategic alliances.

The rest of the industry, Robinet says, can be divided among loners—such as Japan's Honda, Germany's BMW and Porsche, and France's Peugeot-Citroen, which appear strong enough to retain their independence—and problem children, such as Korea's ailing Daewoo and Russia's Lada.

While auto sales hit a 17.4-million-vehicle American record last year, sales and profits skidded so sharply toward the end of the year that auto companies started slashing production and have yet to stop.

Automakers also are hitting the brakes on European production. Analysts say the most lucrative, highest-volume consumer markets on both continents and Asia have stopped growing.

That means that to cut costs and continue growing, the strong auto companies must continue eating the weak, either by gobbling problem children whole or nipping off the best pieces.

Just as important as any further consolidation is the way in which these operators manage their acquisitions and partnerships, say industry analysts.

At the North American International Auto Show, the leading automotive exhibition on the continent and one of the top four in the world, auto companies trot out their top executives as well as their newest products and most cutting-edge prototypes.

For the first time, both Ford and GM are showing all of the brands they own or control in umbrella corporate displays. In addition to home brands Ford, Mercury and Lincoln, Ford's display includes Britain's Jaguar, Aston Martin and Land Rover, Sweden's Volvo, and Japan's Mazda.

In addition to GM's myriad home brands—Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Saturn, soon-to-be-defunct Oldsmobile and Hummer—GM's display includes Japan's Suzuki, Isuzu and Subaru, and Sweden's Saab. *AFP*

# How to enjoy the impeachment trial

**QUESTIONS OF POLICIES**

*Honesto C. General*

THE OTHER day, when I dropped by the *turo-turo* restaurant where I sometimes buy *ulam*, I asked the proprietor, Aling Nene, why the TV set was off while the impeachment trial was raging on. She said it was because some of her customers would throw things at the TV screen if they didn't like what they saw or heard.

Now, that is no way to enjoy the best TV series in history. You are liable to sour your disposition the rest of the day or, worse, bust an artery.

One way to enjoy the TV coverage of the impeachment trial is to watch it as if it were a basketball game. At the sidewalk of my sister's neighborhood in San Andres Bukid, a TV set is installed for public viewing. When the prosecution scores, the anti-Erap side roars. When the defense scores, the pro-Erap side goes wild. There is a lot of *kantiyawan*, but nothing personal. It is comforting to know that, in my sister's neighborhood, the trial has not been all that divisive. People are still poking good-natured fun at each other.

Another way is my way. Whenever I can take the afternoon off from work, I go home to watch the show in the comfort of my favorite armchair in the bedroom, with a glass of cold beer and some *pulutan* by my side. Then I tell myself, and this is the crucial factor, that I am watching a situation comedy sometimes interrupted by high drama.

Of course, the high drama has been provided by Gov. Chavit Singson and the Seven Muses—Emma Lim, Carmencita Itchon, the three lady branch managers of Equitable PCI Bank, Annie Ngo and, last but definitely not the least, the inimitable Clarissa Ocampo.

The trial is also an action show. When the prosecution and defense lawyers cross swords, I recall all that swordplay in Gene Kelly's "The Three Musketeers."

But the senators, each given a two-minute segment—a time limit everybody breaks—to show his wares, provide the comedy. Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel are the straight men to the biggest bunch of comedians that has ever performed on Philippine TV. The senators play to the nationwide audience on the public relations principle that TV exposure will lead to easy name recall at the election booth. It matters little to them that they sometimes appear like buffoons, which, by the way, I thoroughly enjoy watching.

Sen. Francisco Tatad, as majority floor leader, opens the show by appearing and sounding pompously important in an otherwise mundane role of emcee. In time, the senators act out their own individual comedy skits. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the administrator of martial law, goes after the poor witness with hammer and tongs. You know why? He is playing to President Estrada, as if saying, "I'm doing this dirty job for you." Right on cue, his bird dog, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, looking lost, somehow follows with some innocuous remarks. Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste had her shining moment but the rest of the way she just rolled her eyes and looked pretty. Sen. John Osmeña just has to have his share of TV time and manages to mumble some sort of complaint, finally discovering what to him was a spy microphone. Sen. Juan Flavier, with nothing much to say, would display his fluency in Tagalog. You can see that Senators Ramon Revilla and Tito Sotto, big names in the entertainment world, are not used to the minor roles they find themselves in. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon tries hard to shed his military background by sounding legalistic. Sen. Blas Ople, probably the most articulate of the whole bunch, has been mum all the way, which is also funny—in an eerie sort of way. Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta seems to enjoy watching the show. And so it goes.

But the top banana is Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, always well coifed and nattily dressed, with the sharpest tongue and a set of daggers to match. First, you wonder, where in hell did she get that unique English accent of hers. Certainly, she did not pick it up in Brooklyn or London or Diliman or Ateneo. Then, when she reads chapters and verses from some law book, she makes me feel, well, unread. But, when she goes into her temper tantrums, she is absolutely hilarious. She has me rolling on the floor in stitches. Without her, the impeachment trial would be a total bore.

# Petron, Shell seen keeping oil share

By Christine A. Gaylican

PETRON Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. have expressed optimism they will be able to maintain their market share this year despite projections of lower petroleum demand and tougher competition.

Petron, jointly owned by the Philippine government and Aramco Overseas Co. BV, currently controls 39 percent of the local oil market while Pilipinas Shell, a local subsidiary of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies, has a 34-percent share.

Both companies expect local demand for petroleum products to continue falling this year.

The country's fuel consumption fell from roughly 350,000 barrels a day in 1999 to 335,000 barrels a day last year.

"The volume of sales dropped due to the slowdown of economic growth and the relative upsurge of fuel prices," Petron chair Jose Syjuco said in an interview.

Syjuco added that the National Power Corp., Petron's biggest customer, bought less fuel last year as it opted to use cheaper sources of energy.

Pilipinas Shell president Oscar Reyes said shrinking transport, agricultural and industrial markets led to lower sales for Pilipinas Shell last year.

Oil refiners have cut their output by about 10 percent. Petron has slashed production from 185,000 barrels a day to 140,000 barrels.

"We anticipate that there would be lower petroleum sales, but we would do our best to maintain our current market share position. This would be our fighting target," Reyes said.

Petron's Syjuco said he expected sales volume this year to pick up.

"Napocor would still need its fuel-fired plants to stabilize the flow of power in the system, even with the coming of gas-fired power plants. This is aside from the fact the electricity demand is also higher this year," he said.

Pilipinas Shell's Reyes said his company would try to keep its dominance in the industrial market and improve its retail sales marketing. Pilipinas Shell would also dispose of its idle assets to cut operational costs in view of some P2.5 billion in under-recovery losses last year, he said.

Petron said earlier it would reduce retail fuel prices to match rates announced by small oil companies before the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meets on Jan. 17.

Petron said it might cut prices of gasoline, diesel and other petroleum products by at least 40 centavos a liter.

Eastern Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Philippines Inc and Flying V had said they would cut gasoline prices.

Oil refiners are under pressure to cut prices because of falling world crude prices and a relatively stable foreign exchange rate in December.

The price of Dubai crude, a benchmark used by local oil companies, fell from $30.32 per barrel in November to $21.65 a barrel in December, while the peso moved from just 49.91 per dollar to 49.99 per dollar.

The government earlier suggested oil companies cut prices by as much as P1 per liter.

Petron earlier said it would decide to cut oil prices after Opec meets to decide on a new round of production cuts to boost world crude prices.

Petron could have cut petroleum prices further if it wasn't constrained by unrecovered costs amounting to 1.60 per liter, such other charges as the reintroduction of a 3-percent tariff on oil imports and the implementation of tougher environmental standards on oil companies.

Higher world crude prices and a weaker peso last year prompted the Philippines' major oil companies to raise retail fuel prices seven times between February and October, increasing rates by a third from end-1999 levels.

# Phone firms express caution over 3G frequency auction

By Anthony O. Alcantara

LOCAL telecommunications companies have expressed apprehensions over the government's plan to bid out frequencies for the latest generation of telephones that will allow significant increases in data transmission.

Bayan Telecommunications Inc. vice president Edgardo Balbin said the government should learn from the experience of European players who invested billions in 3G frequencies but were now being pressured by their shareholders for returns on their investments within a short period of time.

Third-generation mobile communication, or 3G, will allow significant increases in data transmission speeds compared to 2G and 2.5G technologies. That capability will allow 3G telephones to have Internet applications as well as other applications such as mobile videoconferencing and music downloading.

"Of course we are interested (in 3G), but if the government will make it expensive, how can we make it affordable to the public?" Balbin asked.

The National Telecommunications Commission has given BayanTel a provisional authority to offer mobile communication services. The Court of Appeals, however, has prevented BayanTel from providing these services because of a case filed by BayanTel's estranged subsidiary, Express Telecommunications Inc.

Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc., the country's leading mobile phone companies, earlier said they had yet to see how the NTC would conduct the auction for 3G frequencies.

The commission earlier said it was going to allow only two or three players to provide 3G services.

# Local cement firms get 30 days to file dumping case

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has given the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. another 30 days to firm up its anti-dumping case against companies in Taiwan, Japan and Indonesia.

Philcemcor asked for a 90-day extension of its Jan. 5 deadline to file its anti-dumping case. The group said it needed more time to gather evidence to bolster its case that foreign cement makers were selling their products at prices much lower than those prevailing in their home markets.

Trade Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez said while the DTI normally does not extend deadlines, it agreed to give Philcemcor more time in view of the extensive data and information it needed to prove its case.

In September last year, the trade department gave Philcemcor another 90 days to finalize its complaints.

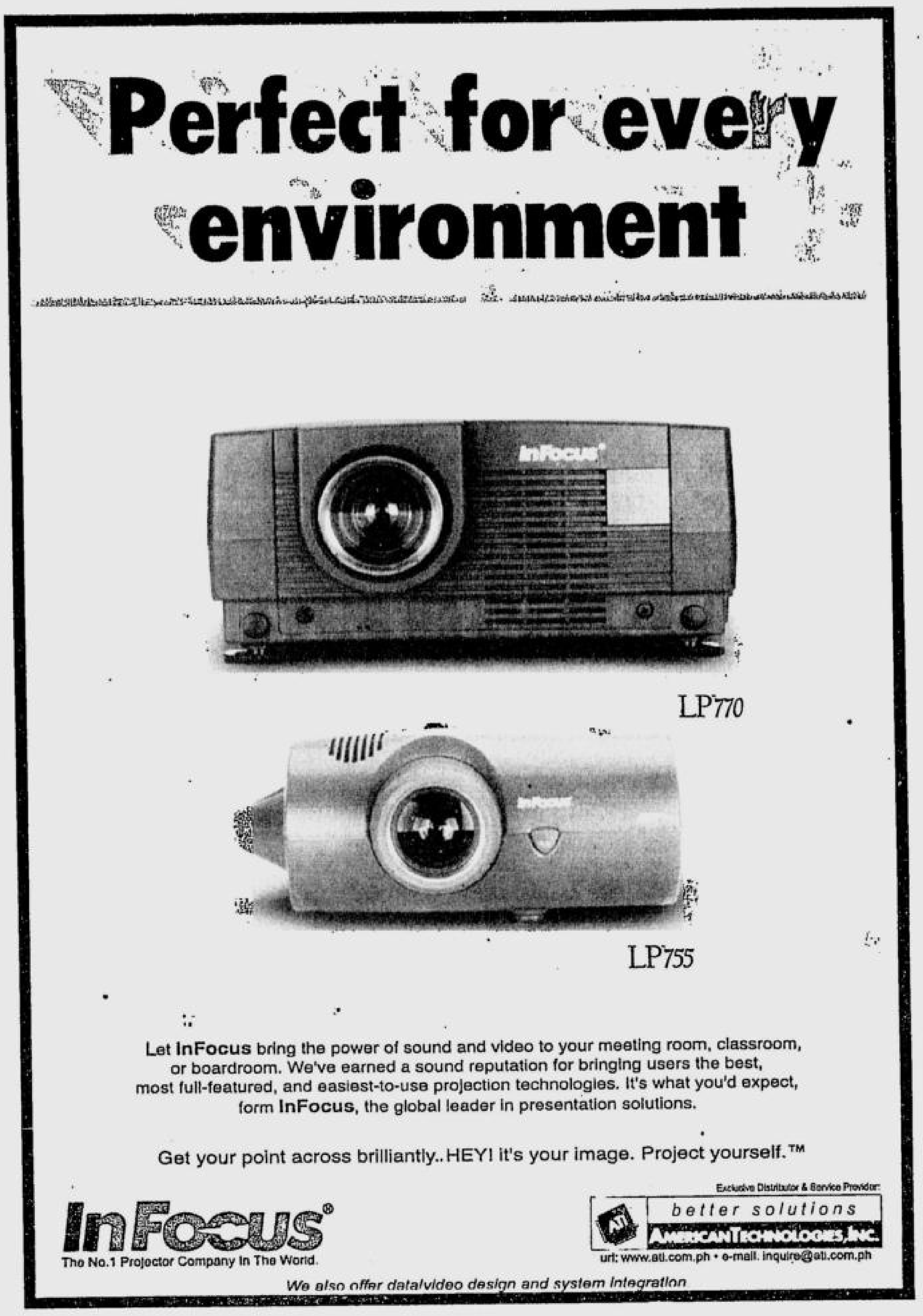
Ordoñez said Philcemcor was not only building its anti-dumping case against Taiwan Cement Corp. but was also consolidating a separate case under the Safeguard Measures Act that would cover all cement imports from Taiwan, Japan and Indonesia.

Ordoñez said while the anti-dumping case against Taiwan Cement was company specific, the case filed under the Safeguard Measures Act was much broader.

Philcemcor asked for an extension to expand the scope of its anti-dumping case against Taiwan Cement to include imports not only in 1999 but also in the first half of 2000 to obtain a substantially higher cash bond—computed as the difference between the prices of Taiwan Cement in Taiwan and in the Philippines—against the cement giant.

Taiwan Cement is selling its cement at $20 a ton here compared to its home price of $60 to $65 a ton.

*Gil Cabacungan Jr.*



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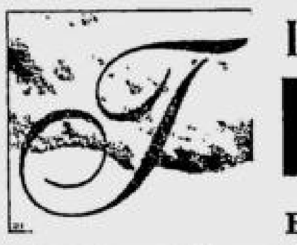

# INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

## New Year baby

The idea of using an infant to symbolize the start of a new cycle began in ancient Greece, about 600 BC. It was customary at the festival of Dionysus, god of wine and revelry, to parade a babe cradled in a winnowing basket. This represented the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility.

In Egypt, a similar rebirth ceremony was portrayed on the lid of a sarcophagus, or stone coffin, now in a British Museum: Two men, one old and bearded, the other in the fitness of youth, are shown carrying an infant in a winnowing basket. So common was the symbol of the New Year's babe in Greek, Egyptian, and Roman times that the early Catholic Church, after much resistance, finally allowed its members to use it in celebrations—if celebrators acknowledged that the infant was not a pagan symbol but an effigy of the Christ Child.

**For the Record.** At one time during the high Middle Ages—from the 11th to the 13th centuries—the British celebrated New Year's Day on March 25, the French on Easter Sunday, and the Italians on Christmas Day, then December 15; only in Iberian Peninsula, comprising Spain and Portugal, was it observed on January 1. Fact is, it is only within the past four hundred years that January 1 has enjoyed widespread acceptance.

**Real Names.** Joyce Reimegrado—Joyce Jimenez; Hazel Klenk Reyes—Ara Mina; Anna Matti Macatangay—Amanda Page; Victoria Valentino—Janna Victoria; Genesis Canlapan—Patricia Javier; Abby Viduya—Priscilla Almeda

### WORD WATCH

**Gamine** (ga-meen) : a small playfully mischievous girl.

(PDI – Jan. 08, 2001)

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Notice is hereby given that the MESALA SAVINGS Acct. w/No. 10017932-4 of the late Filemon M. Pascual was extrajudicially settled & waived by his heirs per Doc. 202, Page. 42, Book XXX, Series of 2000 Before Atty. Arturo P. Peralta of Makati City (PDI-12/ 25, 1/ 1, 8, 2000)

#### NOTICE OF LOSS

Passport No. C2016308 issued to Shahram Gholizadeh lost in Imus, Cavite, Jan. 1, 2001. Call T-046-5152440 look for Nel Siron.

### PERSONAL

THANK YOU PAPA JESUS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PERSONAL

#### PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

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To the family and friends of the late

## BENITO "Benny" LAO

*at the age of 65*

*Born: November 4, 1935*
*Died: January 5, 2001*

His dearest wife **MARTINA**; children **CONSTANTINE** and **MELY**, **CRISPIAN** and **FAY**, **CHRISTOPHER**, **ELIZABETH** and **TONY**, and **EVANGELINE**; grandchildren **RYAN CHRISTOPHER**, **YZABELLE NICOLE**, **MICHAELA ANTOINETTE**, **NADINE ANGELINE**, **CATHERINE STEPHANIE**, **CARLOS MIGUEL**, **JOAQUIN RAFAEL**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel A-1 & A-2. La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue. Quezon City. Interment will be at Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Baesa, Caloocan City; date of which to be announced later.

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***"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."***
*2 Corinthians 5:4-5*

## Rodrigo San Jose Sotto

*Peacefully joined our Lord on January 7, 2001*
*at the age of 68.*

His bereaved wife **Clarita**; children **Nina** and **Milo**, **Joel** and **Sylvia**, **Rodrigo Jr.** and **Leah**, **Rene** and **Gaylie** grandchildren **Anjo**, **Jan-Jan**, **Kat-Kat**, **Angie**, **Alyssa**, **Christina**, **Gaiety** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Benedict Chapel, Paradise Village, Project 8, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2001 at Himlayangt Pilipino Memorial Park, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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*"Whoever*
*finds*
*his*
*life*
*will*
*lose*
*it,*
*and*
*whoever*
*loses*
*his*
*life*
*for*
*My*
*sake*
*will*
*find*
*it."*
Matthew 10:39

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## ANTONIO J. SCHULTZ

*Peacefully joined his Creator on January 05, 2001.*

His bereaved wife ALICIA, children JOHN, MELINDA PELLICER, VICTORIA STRAUSS, TONY JR. and STANLEY (†), grandchildren LUIS III and RICARDO PELLICER, ANTHONY III and MICHAEL SCHULTZ, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla San Fernando, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Masses will be said everyday at 8:00 PM.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 11, 2001 at the South Cemetery, Makati City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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## LUIS SEVERO L. MELENDEZ

*"Louie," "Pocholo," "Mel"*

*Peacefully joined our Lord on 06 January 2001*
*at the age of 52.*

His loving family: wife **Flordeliza**; children **Anna Cassandra** and **Paolo Enrico**; mother **Pilar**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Camp Aguinaldo Mortuary beside the St. Ignatius Cathedral, Quezon City.

There will be a Mass at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, 10 January 2001. Cremation will follow at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Makati City..

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**The Board of Trustees,**
**the President, Faculty, Administrative Staff**
**and the Student Body of the**
**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**
deeply regret the demise of

## ROMULO D. COLOMA

**Dean, College of Engineering**

*who died in the Grace of our Lord on January 4, 2001*

His remains were buried at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, January 7, 2001.

---

*"I am the way, the truth and the life.*
*No one comes to the Father except through me."*
**John 14:6**

## CAPT. JOHN TABLANTE MESINA

**(RET. PAL PILOT)**

*Peacefully joined his Creator on January 5, 2001*
*at the age of 80.*

His loving wife **Maring Narciso**; children **Cecile** and **Mike Varela**, **Bobby** and **Dulce**, **Agnes** and **Mike Gonzalez**; grandchildren **Michelle** and **Jaime Lim**, **Margie**, **Mia**, **Melissa**, **Joanna** and **Lou Calugcug**, **Joel**, **Marijo**, **Jenkin**, **Jasmin**, **Jenina**, **Jessica**, **Yvette** and **Giselle**; great grandchildren **Jonathan**, **Julienne**, **Angelo**, **Jamie** and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Benedict Chapel, St. Benedict School, Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City. There will be a Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2001 and cremation shall follow.

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**To the Family and Friends**
of the late .

## Jose Ma. L. Javellana

**the following Masses will be held on January 8, 2001 in Remembrance of his Eight Death Anniversary**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Santuario de San Antonio**<br>*Forbes Park, Makati* | 12:15 PM<br>6:00 PM |
| **Don Bosco Parish**<br>*Pasay Road, Makati City* | 7:30 AM<br>12:15 PM<br>6:00 PM |
| **Christ the King**<br>*Green Meadows, Quezon City* | 7:00 AM<br>6:00 PM |
| **Sacred Heart Shrine**<br>*Lupit, Bacolod* | 5:30 PM |
| **San Sebastian Cathedral**<br>*Bacolod* | 5:15 PM |

Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

12 December 2000

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**
No. 55
Series of 2000

**Subject: IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE ACCREDITATION OF SWINE BREEDING FARMS**

In support to the Swine Genetic Improvement Program, these guidelines on the accreditation of Swine Breeding farms are hereby issued.

**I. OBJECTIVES**

1. To identify; accredit and promote swine farms with improved genetics and quality breeders; and
2. To sustain the advanced status of the swine industry by ensuring availability and distribution of good quality breeder stocks, particularly among backyard farmers.

**II. CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION**

1. **Legal Requirements**
   The swine farms must be a registered business entity with permit to operate.
2. **Technical Requirements**
   The swine farms must have:
   2a. Facilities for testing and identification of genetically superior pigs.
   - Testing pen (minimum of 25 test pens with 1-5 animals per pen)
   - Backfat tester or lean meter

   2b. Records specifying lineage of the animals (lines/strains used), average daily gain, and feed conversion ratio.
   2c. Pedigree and a certificate of vaccination for Foot and Mouth Disease and Hog Cholera of all animals sold.
   For breeder farms producing purebreds, the farms should maintain the following minimum number of breeding animals per breed:
   - Female - 50 per breed
   - Male - 10 per breed

   For multiplier or breeder farms producing crossbreds, the farms should source their breeder stocks from accredited purebred producers or franchise holders of reputable hybrids.

**III. ORGANIZATION / MANAGEMENT / GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 22, series of 2000, a 5-man Swine Accreditation Board (SAB) supported by a Technical Working Committee (TWC), represented predominantly from the swine industry sector, shall be responsible for the accreditation of the swine breeding farms. The SAB and the TWC shall be composed of the following:

- **Swine Accreditation Board**
  *Chairman* - Director of Bureau of Animal Industry
  *Members* - Technical Representative from:
  - Philippine Association of Hog Raisers, Inc.
  - National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc.
  - Philippine Swine Industry Research & Development Foundation, Inc.
  - Academe

  **Technical Working Committee**
  Representative from:
  - International Training Center on Pig Husbandry
  - Philippine Swine Industry Research and Development Foundation, Inc.
  - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development
  - Philippine College of Swine Practitioner
  - Academe

The SAB shall provide the policy, over-all direction and issue the accreditation certificate upon the recommendation of the TWC. The TWC shall be responsible for the actual evaluation of breeding farms and recommend measures/amendments on the criteria and procedures of accreditation as may be necessary provided that all amendments must be approved by SAB.

**IV. PROCEDURE FOR ACCREDITATION**

The procedures in accreditation shall consist of:

1. Submission of duly accomplished Application Form (see attached form) to the SAB Secretariat with the original copy of the legal requirements as stated above.
2. Evaluation of the application by the TWC.
3. Farm visit and evaluation by the TWC.
4. Recommendation of TWC to the SAB.
5. Action (approval/disapproval) by the SAB.

**V. FEES**

Accreditation fees shall include Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) non-refundable and Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for the issuance of the Accreditation Certificate.

**VI. FUNDING SUPPORT**

To carry out the activities of swine breeding farms accreditation, the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall provide a Seed Fund of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) to the Swine Breeding Farm Accreditation Board, Inc. (SBABI) for its initial operation. A Memorandum of Agreement between DA and SBABI shall be executed to this effect. Subsequent funding requirements shall be drawn from the accreditation fees and other sources of revenue from the SBABI's operations.

**VII. MONITORING**

The Livestock Development Council shall promote, monitor and evaluate the Swine Breeding Farm Accreditation Program.

EDGARDO J. ANGARA
*Secretary of Agriculture*

(PDI - Jan 8 2001)

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# Mini Job Fair AT THE Glorietta

The **INQUIRER's JOB MARKET** will hold a **"mini" Job Fair** on **January 24 to 26, 2001**; 1 to 8 p.m. at Level 3, Glorietta III, Ayala Center, Makati City (near Racks). Be part of this recruitment special and be included in our **Resumé Reserve** categorized database.

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- **FREE** access to our **Resumé Reserve** databank gathered during the event
- **FREE** posting and exposure to participating companies in our print ads
- Resumés gathered during the event intended to a particular advertiser will be forwarded as an added service to the said company

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# INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

## *Inquirer Interactive now 19th most-read news site in the world*

By Gerry A. Plaza

THE INQUIRER Interactive has climbed up the list of 100hot as the 19th most-read newspaper website in the world, only a notch lower than Yahoo.com (No. 18) and two places below Discovery.com (No.17).

100hot, a US Internet service firm, ranked the site as No. 19 on Jan. 4 in its list of newspaper websites most visited in the world.

The site, based on 100hot's ranking, is bigger than the websites of well-known US newspapers as the Wall Street Journal (30), Detroit Free Press (20), San Jose Mercury News (22) and Miami Herald (28). Only two other sites in the top 20 list are Asian Internet information-providers, both Indian: Rediff.com (12th ) and the online edition of The Times of India (14th).

According to 100hot, its rankings are based on data it collects "on a daily basis from any different sources representing the websurfing patterns of more than 100,000 surfers worldwide."

The further increase is attributed to Inquirer Interactive's continuing multimedia coverage of President Estrada's impeachment trial in partnership with GMA Network Inc. Inquirer Interactive offers audio and video coverage of the proceedings through a streamcast of GMA Network's radio station dzBB and news channel Cable GMA. At the same time, the site offers a text-based, real-time Running Account of the trial updated every one to five minutes.

GMA Network Inc. is the Philippine Daily Inquirer's partner in the forthcoming multimedia news service INQ7 Interactive, which will be launched soon.

## Inquirer.net has been 'framed'

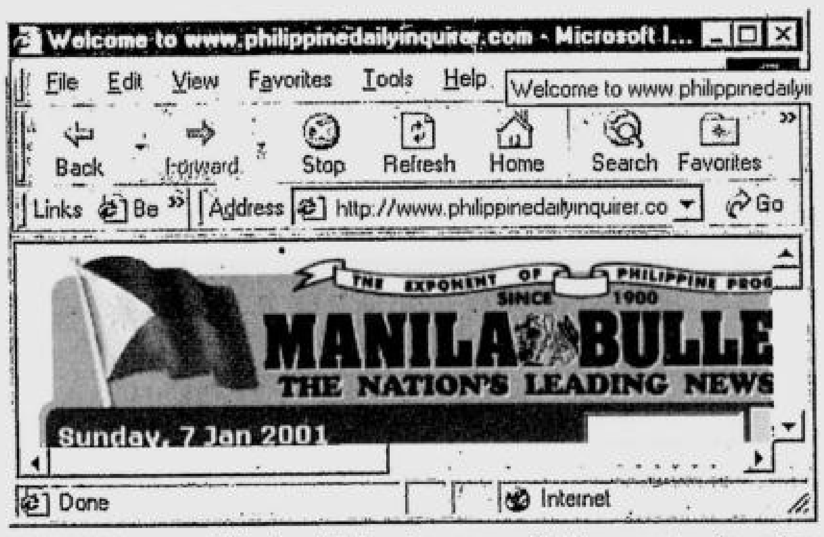
By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

NOT that we're not used to it, since Pinoycentral and other websites frame our website all the time to get to our sought-after content, but this time it's different. Key in "www.philippinedailyinquirer.com" in your address bars and you'll get the website of another newspaper—that of the Manila Bulletin.

Was it meant as a joke or was it intentional? Whatever the case may have been, this latest act shows how Filipinos are showing outright disrespect for the digital copyright of Internet content—a sign that the local Web publishing industry has yet to mature.

Once again Inquirer.net fell prey to a nasty joke. Unless you've been hiding under a rock somewhere for the last 15 years, you should know that the INQUIRER and the Manila Bulletin are two of the biggest newspapers in the country.

"We really had nothing to do with it," Rita Salonga, writer of the Manila Bulletin's online edition, told the INQUIRER. "We're as surprised as you are," she said. Ramir Medina, technical support for the paper's online edition, concurred.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THE URL www.philippinedailyinquirer.com will take you to the other newspaper, as shown here. Note the address in the location bar.

Who then is the culprit?

A WHOIS search on the Internet indicated that a certain Aldwyn Villaseñor owns the domain name www.philippinedailyinquirer.com. The INQUIRER tried to reach Villaseñor at his registered contact number, and we found that he was an employee of a multinational company called Getronics, which is based in the United States. This firm provides solutions and products in information technology, particularly e-business.

However, Villaseñor was not at the office Saturday when we called him, and we only managed to reach a security guard who said that no one was at the office then. Asked if the security guard knew Aldwyn and what his position was at Getronics, the guard said: "*Kilala ko po siya, hindi po siya* manager *dito. Empleyado lang po* (I know him. He's not a manager here—he's just an employee)."

It appears that Villaseñor registered the domain name using his office account. The domain name is currently being hosted by Bizland.com's servers, a US-based web services firm.

The INQUIRER also discovered the time Villaseñor perpetrated this "joke."

In a posting dated 11/24/2000 at 5:09:40 p.m. at a spoofed Inquirer.net website, Villaseñor announced that he was posting http://www.philippinedailyinquirer.com using an office Internet account which the INQUIRER traced to IP address 210.176.104.66, apparently from Getronics.

INQUIRER.NET/ p.B12

## Is the PC era over?

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE GADGET Guy is back. It's Gadget Time.

The mobile information society wants mobile information. PC laptops, or even desktops, are just too heavy to drag around these days. Gadget Guy wants a Pocket PC, a Palm, or whatnot to get the latest information, music, or even pizza.

Just last week, Redmond software giant Microsoft Corp. and chipmaker Intel Corp. unveiled battle plans of rolling out products not meant for the necktied corporate customers. The duopoly is expected to unleash hot products intended to dominate the personal computing and the gaming and wireless gadgets industries that can readily be connected to the Internet—wires or no wires attached.

Does this mean the demise of the desktop PC, which has, for so long, been our interface to the digital world?

Just look around you and observe. Or else, read the news and hold your breath as companies gear up for a different battle where money and customers are aplenty. Here are some samples:

### Intel Inside MP3

Do you know that Intel has gone beyond manufacturing chips for PC manufacturers? If you do, then skip this. If not, read on. Word is spreading that the chipmaker intends to extend its existence in this digital world because PCs are about to take a beating from personal computing, wireless and gaming devices, which have been dominated by names like Sony, Philips, Thomson, Sega, Nintendo and Rio, to name a few. The Pocket PC devices (the counterpart of the Palm), for instance, uses Intel's StrongArm microprocessor to run this sleek, multimedia Internet contraption (Intel has also come up with an MP3 player).

Industry observers indicate that Intel wants to get into the consumer market, which is becoming more tech-savvy. Thanks to Japanese firms like Sony (which is also working on newer products), Intel is expected to show off at a computer show in Las Vegas products like the "instant message pad" which can beam e-mail messages or perhaps small information through a wireless device. Imagine watching the impeachment trial at the Senate and continually beaming tidbits of information using a wireless device to the Inquirer.net website's Running Account, real-time. Cool.

### A world without Windows?

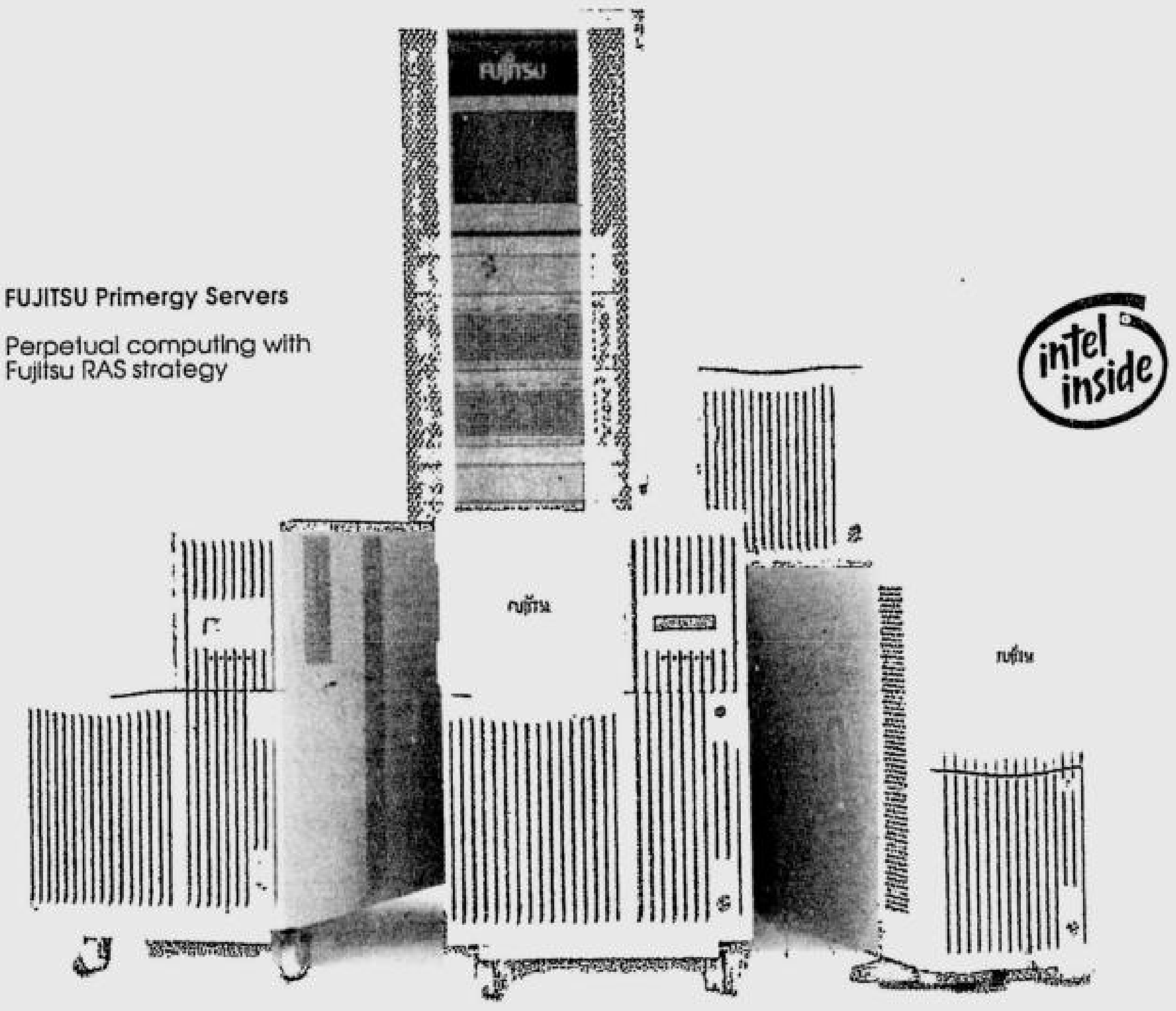
What has Bill Gates been up to now that he is the chief software architect of the largest software company in the world? Take a guess. Perhaps he was busy playing with the Xbox prototype, or watching news of crashing MS stocks from his new UltimateTV. We can go on speculating but one thing is certain: Microsoft is not about to bow out to competition (has it ever?) amid legal battles, an antitrust case and plunging stocks.

At the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Gates and his minions showed off what they have in store for the mobile information society that has come to love little gadgets.

Microsoft demonstrated during that show how Xbox, its new gaming console, intends to topple giants like Sony, Sega and Nintendo. It has, in fact, hired 13-year-olds to test the machine. The software company has also partnered with Samsung in Korea in a project that aims to port the Pocket PC operating system to personal digital assistants and Samsung's mobile phones. Interesting. The Las Vegas show also became the venue where Gates showed off UltimateTV, a reported satellite-based interactive service offered in combination with DirecTV and Xbox.

Finally, ever heard of the TabletPC? Of course, another Microsoft "invention" that is being kept under the wraps, so to speak. If memory serves me right, though, way back in

IS/ p.B12



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**CYBERPRESS INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS**

Catanduanes Rep. Leandro Verceles Jr. (second from right) inducted the new set of Cyberpress officers on Dec. 19. Josephine Victoria Tañada Yam (second from left), president of Lawyer.com.ph and cyberlaw expert, was also guest of honor at the event. The new Cyberpress officers are (from left) Erwin Oliva (INQ7.net), external affairs committee head; Patti Nisperos (Asia Online), adviser for corporate sector; Veronica Silva (BusinessWorld Online), adviser for online sector; Noel Mailum (Manila Standard), membership committee head; Edu Lopez (Manila Bulletin), treasurer; Terry Singun (IT Update), vice president; Joey Alarilla (Inquirer), president; Red Samar (Manila Bulletin), adviser for print sector; Prudence Orani (Metropolitan Computer Times), adviser for trade publications; Helen Andrade-Jimenez (BusinessWorld Online), secretary; and Edison Ong (IT On Air), adviser for broadcast sector. Not in photo is Joel Pinaroc (INQ7.net), election and amendments committee head. Founded in 1996, Cyberpress is the Asia's first organization of information technology journalists.

# Is the PC era over?

(From page B11)

1992 NCR was already pushing out tablet PC prototypes—and that was almost a decade ago.

### From PCs to mini-PCs

First there were Palms. Then Gates said, "let there be Pocket PCs." Then all the PC manufacturers started creating Pocket PC clones. Gates saw that his creation was good. And so he rested.

PC manufacturers Compaq Computer and Hewlett-Packard have seen the light with the Pocket PC. Thus, this year, both have promised to ramp up their productions as demand for the Pocket PC is anticipated to equal that of the Palm.

Has Gates hit the bull's eye with the Pocket PC? That has yet to be seen as Palms and the Pocket PC manufacturers are expected to slug it out this year. Current score: Palm, 70-percent market share while Pocket PC, well, a small percentage of the remaining 30 percent.

The success of the Pocket PC platform is mainly due to its powerful features: multimedia capabilities, connectivity to the Internet and, soon, other wireless devices, and compatibility with Windows (of course it runs on Windows). Its downfall at this time is its hefty price tag: $500 and up.

Still, Microsoft intends to dominate the world, so expect more manufacturers churning out Pocket PCs this year. Incidentally, word has spread that Linux developers have come up with a Linux-based personal digital assistant called Pengachu.

### Napster Master

Compaq, Dell, Gateway and MP3s? Surprise, surprise. These PC manufacturers believe there is money in MP3—an idea Napster's creators would have detested. Reports indicate that Creative Labs is selling digital jukeboxes at $500 apiece. Not bad. At the Las Vegas show, Compaq launched a stereo jukebox designed specifically for MP3 and other digital music files, following the lead of Dell Computer and Gateway.

Why all the craze in MP3 when one could easily grab one from Napster? That is precisely the point. As Napster enters a deal with one giant music label, perhaps these PC manufacturers are expecting people all over the world to go gaga over MP3 music (aren't we?). Compaq's digital jukebox system called iPaq Connect Music Player is intended as a peripheral to another PC, a TV, and other devices that play digital music.

Compaq's jukebox is a 17-inch digital stereo gear. It can store up to 5,000 MP3 music files on its 20-Gb hard disk drive. It also connects to the Internet using a 56-kbps modem for streaming music over the Internet.

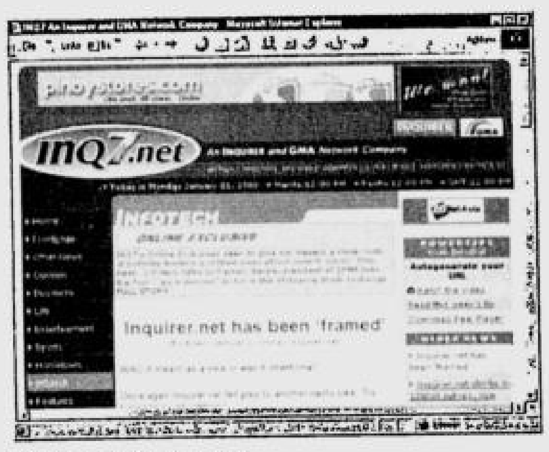
So, is the PC-era over? Perhaps not, but it seems manufacturers are expecting a shrinking PC market as the digital age moves into wireless and broadband.

# Gamers gawk at Xbox

LAS VEGAS—Microsoft Corp. chair Bill Gates gave video game players their first look at the highly anticipated game player Xbox that Microsoft hopes will propel it to the top of the $20 billion a year video game industry.

It drew applause from a jam-packed theater at the giant International Consumer Electronics Show, and smiles from pro wrestling's The Rock, who came on stage to tout Xbox's ability to render lifelike smackdowns in the World Wrestling Federation's game currently being developed for Xbox.

"This thing is a broadband (high-speed Internet) gaming device," said Gates. Targeted at video game-savvy kids 15- to 26-years-old, the Xbox comes with a hard disk drive to store games. *Reuters*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Inquirer.net has been 'framed'

**INQ7 PREVIEW**

The new look of Inquirer Interactive has been unveiled today, starting with the Infotech section of the website. The other sections will adopt the new look and feel afterward one after the other, and this will continuously be improved until eventually the entire site incorporates the features, look and feel of its next incarnation—INQ7.net. INQ7.net is the joint-venture Internet project of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc. The joint project has resulted into an online, real-time multimedia news and information delivery organization. The technological progeny of the marriage between the two leading companies will be born in cyberpsace soon. Infotech, the first to take on the transformation to INQ7.net, features online exclusives such as interviews with industry luminaries, Infobyte windows to explain industry jargons, computing productivity tips both in text and video and, soon, content from ZDNet Asia, a global computing information company. We would appreciate your feedback about our new look by e-mailing us at feedback@inquirer.com.ph.

# Inquirer.net . . .

(From page B11)

He remarked: "Hi. *Galeng naman* (referring to other websites which have spoofed Inquirer.net). *Eto pandagdag sa ispup* (Here's something new for Ispup). Pls visit www.philippinedailyinquirer.com." His posting can be gleaned at http://www.emindph.com/rye/ispup/ginquirer/guest/guestbook/default.asp) up until now.

How did Villaseñor go about with this act?

Obviously familiar with the Web, Villaseñor successfully "framed" Manila Bulletin online's home page into another Web address, which is www.philippinedailyinquirer.com. Framing a website literally means putting several websites, or in this case www.mb.com.ph, in separate frames or "windows" within a website. Thus it is possible that Villaseñor could have "framed" several websites at www.philippinedailyinquirer.com. However, he opted to create just a single frame and placed Manila Bulletin's website in it. Therefore, if you type in www.philippinedailyinquirer.com, you'll end up seeing the other paper's online edition.

It is just like looking through a window, then suddenly someone decides to replace it with another view.

Framing a website is deemed an unethical practice which goes unpunished, particularly in the Philippines. This is, in fact, close to violating digital copyright. Unfortunately, a law protecting digital copyright in the country is not yet in existence. But this does not mean we can just copy everything we see on the Web. Some websites like Inquirer.net has set policies and guidelines, which seek to deter people from indiscriminately copying or "filching" digital information from the site.

Such digital copyright issues are scheduled to be discussed today by the Information Technology and E-commerce Council—the country's highest IT policymaking body—in an attempt to set guidelines on how digital intellectual property can be protected.

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# BUSINESS

# BSP sees another rate cut this week

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it could still bring down its overnight rates by another half-a-percentage point or 50 basis points this week. The Monetary Board is expected to decide on this during its regular weekly meeting on Thursday.

"There is still room for a near-term reduction in interest rates. We will review the rates again this week," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The Monetary Board last Friday brought down the BSP's overnight rates by half-a-percentage point. The rate cut, which takes effect today, was the fourth since November last year.

Buenaventura said expectations of further interest rates cut by the US Federal Reserve "gave Philippine monetary authorities a bigger room to adjust key policy rates."

"On the whole, we should be able to reduce our rates to 12 percent this year. But the extent of the rates reduction would depend on our budget deficit this year and on how the government would finance it," he said.

He said the more domestic borrowings the government would incur, the more constrained the BSP would be in cutting its rates.

Effective today, the BSP's overnight borrowing rate will be at 13 percent while overnight lending rate will be at 15.25 percent. The last rate cut brought the total reduction in BSP rates since early December to two percentage points.

The 6.6-percent inflation rate in December and the 4.4-percent average inflation rate for the year were within the central bank's expectations.

The BSP earlier projected a 6.5 to 7-percent inflation in December and a 4.3 to 4.5-percent inflation for the whole year.

The central bank said its recent rates cut would help boost economic growth.

The BSP said the tier system on the banks' overnight placements would continue to apply. This system offers a 13-percent interest on bank deposits with the BSP of up to P5 billion; 11.5 percent for the next P5 billion and 10 percent for placements in excess of P10 billion.

The reduction in the central bank's rates is expected to lead to a further decline in the government's borrowing rates today, to be reflected by the yield of the benchmark 91-day treasury bill, and the bank lending rates.

The central bank raised its rates by four percentage points in October last year in view of the steep fall of the peso, which was said to be brought about by the uncertainties arising from the "Juetengate" scandal.

# Further rise in consumer prices seen

By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla said consumer prices would likely peak in the first two months of the year amid the economic uncertainties brought about by the ongoing impeachment trial of the President.

Medalla, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, added that inflation rate may hit 8 to 8.5 percent on a monthly basis but it would not exceed 8.5 percent.

The government aims to keep the average inflation rate for the whole year within the 6.5 to 7.5 percent range, which market analysts believe is a realistic target. The target, however, was based on the assumption that the current political crisis would be resolved within the first quarter of the year.

Last year's inflation average was at 4.4 percent, down from 6.7 percent in 1999. In December, inflation hit a 19-month high of 6.6 percent, reflecting a rising trend which is expected to continue in the next two months.

In an interview, Medalla said: "It will hit 8 and 8.5 percent but it is not going to go up any further. It will start going down because the currency is stabilizing and oil prices are likely to go down."

Also, he said that wage increases did not go beyond 5 percent. Medalla also noted that the El Niño phenomenon, which is expected to recur this quarter, was not expected to affect prices of rice, the country's main staple.

"It's because we're prepared for it. We'll import food if necessary. Fortunately, world rice prices are quite low. We will of course raise domestic production but if, for any reason, this would not be possible, we are prepared to import rice," he said.

Medalla noted that interest rates were expected to continue falling this week. He said the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate was expected to fall to 11 and 12 percent.

# Gov't considers stock rights offering for SMC

THE GOVERNMENT may drop plans to sell $1 billion worth of bonds convertible into sequestered shares it holds in San Miguel Corp., the country's largest food and beverage company.

"We are looking at other possibilities," Finance Secretary Jose Pardo told reporters Friday. "One strategic investor is knocking at the door of San Miguel willing to take the shares, provided there is no legal impediment."

Pardo said one of the options being considered was a stock rights offering equivalent to the government's holdings in the food and beverage giant.

He said that the plan was to issue new shares and allow the sequestered block to be diluted. He, however, did not explain how this option would raise money for the government since proceeds from such a sale would go straight to the company.

Pardo noted that the foreign exchange that would be generated from the sale would help prop up the peso to more reasonable levels.

Ownership of the 27-percent stake has been the subject of legal dispute since the shares were seized in 1986 after dictator Ferdinand Marcos fled the country. The succeeding government of Corazon Aquino took the shares from associates of San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco alleging that they had been bought by an illegal levy on coconut farmers.

Coconut farmers have been battling landlords and coconut processors ever since over ownership of the shares.

To cash in the shares without waiting for the courts to rule, the government said in November that it would issue convertible bonds and use to money to aid the ailing coconut industry.

The legality of the bonds hasn't been tested.

Asahi Breweries Ltd. of Japan and Heineken Group of Germany were said to be very keen in investing in San Miguel.

Pardo said the Presidential Commission on Good Government has yet to file with the Sandiganbayan a request to lift the sequestration order on the 27-percent stake in SMC to pave the way for the sale or securitization of the shares.

"We have requested the PCGG to fast-track the filing so we could pursue our plans," Pardo said.

He said that at least 10 foreign investment banks that have offered to underwrite the bond offering if the government would decide to pursue this option. *Clarissa Batino with a report from Bloomberg*

# SEC OKs Internet trading

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the use of the Internet to offer and sell securities.

The commission adopted the new policy following an inquiry from Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation, an investment house, on whether it could use its website to distribute application forms and other materials for an initial public offering.

AIB said by making available the IPO materials using its website, it would not only contribute to the broadening of the investor base but also increase the accessibility of information to potential investors with regards to a proposed offering.

"This would help potential investors make an informed decision about a proposed IPO," AIB assistant vice president Stanley Saguinsin said in a letter to the SEC.

In a reply dated Dec. 27, 2000, the SEC said it would allow the use of the Internet to offer and sell securities under its recently approved "guidelines for the electronic delivery of the prospectus."

The SEC said these guidelines "ensure that the objectives of full disclosure under the Securities Regulation Code are met and the objectives of the e-commerce law are satisfied." *Elena R. Torrijos*

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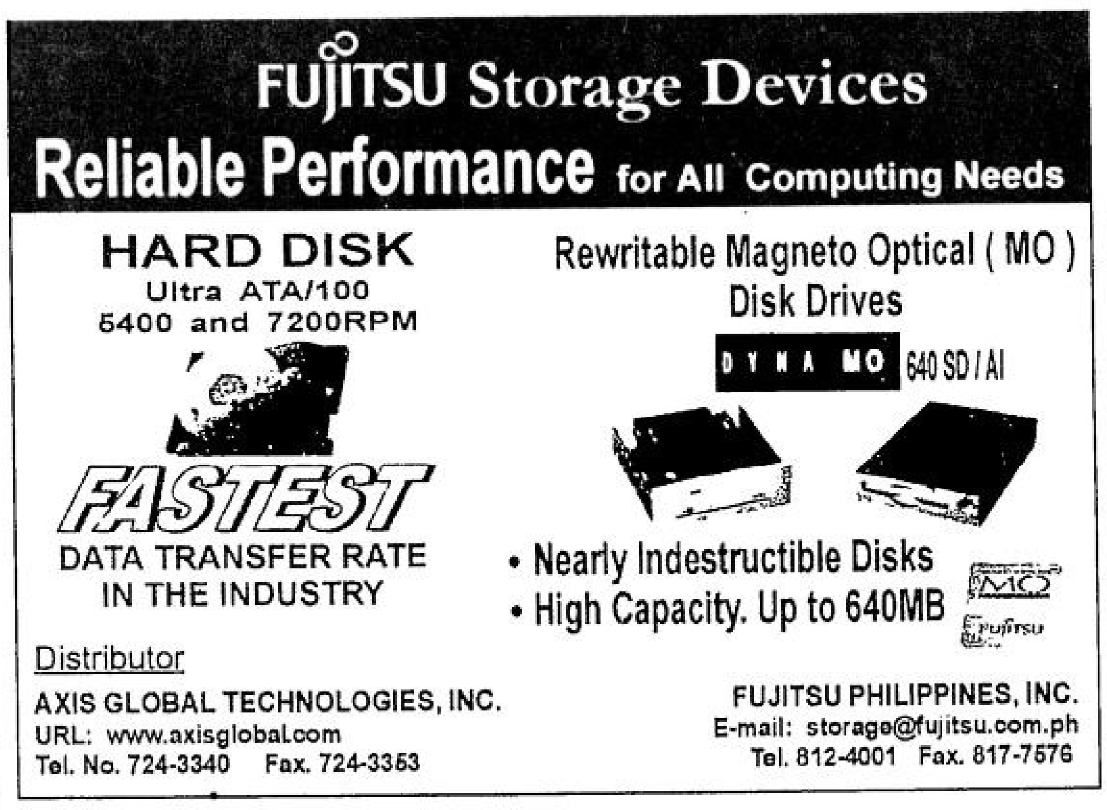
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# BUSINESS*Monday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

# BSP chief is high on love amid lows of the peso

BY CLARISSA BATINO

TOO old for his wedding to be bandied about in newspapers but never too old to fall in love is how Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Rafael B. Buenaventura, feels about his love life.

The 61-year-old governor, a seasoned banker and a classmate of President Estrada, refuses to go into details about his wedding to fifty-something Marivic Rufino, a socialite, painter and columnist. It is the second time around for both.

Buenaventura remarks that his marriage is too personal a matter to discuss and the only information he volunteers is that they tied the knot "sometime in December," not in the first few days of the year as was earlier reported.

He even refuses to confirm a society column report that it was done in Singapore.

BSP/ C3

ITO

# Japanese CEO hopes to make staff stay till retirement

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

IN JAPAN, most people work for just one company from the time they graduate from the university at 22 until they retire at 60. These executives are taught the value of looking at the long term and to prove themselves worthy of a promotion.

Hiroaki Ito, president of Epson Philippines Corp., a subsidiary of Epson Japan, makers of printers and digital cameras, says he tries to impart the same culture and management style to his team here in the Philippines. He wants his people, he says, to think long term and to put in an honest day's work to reap all the benefits and incentives down the road.

**MANAGEMENT STYLES**

"What I try to teach the staff here is to look at the mutual benefits between them and the company. Better results for the company mean better benefits for everyone involved," Ito explains.

Ito says he motivates the staff to achieve the sales and marketing targets of the company by implementing an incentive scheme and a rating system. Each employee is measured against specific targets to determine if he deserves more benefits or a bonus.

For the sales and marketing side of the business, the staff performance is measured against sales targets. For the backroom people like those in accounting or technical services, Epson employs a service target to measure performance.

"We use the criteria system so that everything will be fair. If they do well, they get an achievement bonus on top of their basic pay," Ito says.

Ito tells the INQUIRER that he did not have a hard time adjusting to the work culture of the Filipinos when he was asked to set up the company in 1998. Prior to this, Epson products were sold and marketed in the Philippines via the Epson offices in Hong Kong.

Epson Philippines is involved in the wholesale and servicing of dot matrix printers, inkjet printers (including large format printers), laser printers, multimedia projectors, digital cameras, scanners and point-of-sale systems.

It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Seiko Epson Corp. of Japan.

"I think there are many similarities between the Philippines and Japan. What I found in the Philippines is that people are eager to work. They are very flexible towards new management and in new ways of doing things. They catch up very fast to the latest developments," Ito says.

The culture here is quite different, he says, compared to the European markets, which he handled just before coming to the Philippines. Europeans are not so hot about catching with the latest trends because their market and economy in general are already mature.

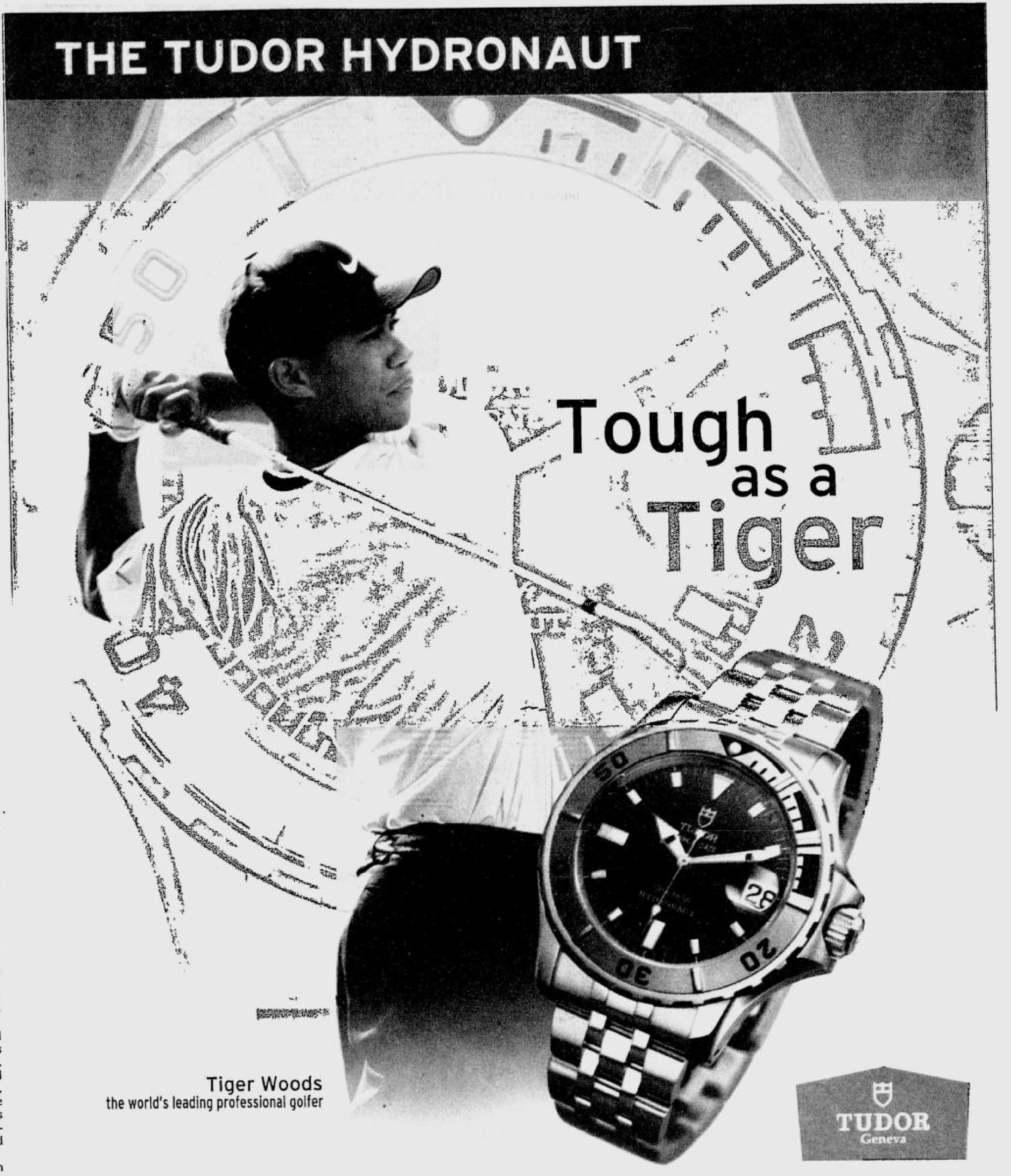
"In a developing country like the Philippines, the people have to be very active. That is what I learned here, people are very eager to meet technological challenges," Ito says.

Ito stresses that the desire of employees to work hard should be nurtured so that they will find satisfaction in what they are doing.

"I believe in job satisfaction very strongly. I want the staff to enjoy and be satisfied with what they are doing. They should be able to learn from their employer. I think that Filipinos, like the Japanese, will not stay in a job if they don't learn or develop even if it did pay well," Ito says.

Ito cultivated his management expertise in the Epson head office in Japan. After graduating from Waseda University in 1982 with a degree in commerce, Ito worked for the human resources department of the company, learning about how people work and how to motivate them.

JAPANESE/ C4



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**MANUEL V. PANGILINAN,** president and CEO of PLDT, shares a drink with Washington Sycip, founder of the SGV Group.

**JOINING THE TOWER CLUB BOARD** are Rafael G. Hechanova, president of Hyland Realty and Development Corp.; Peter Wallace, president of AYC-Economist Intelligence Unit; and William A. Judy, president of Philam Insurance.

**DANILO E. IGNACIO**, president of Philam Properties Corp.; Guillermo D. Luchangco, chair and CEO of Investment and Capital Corp. of the Philippines; and William V. Coscolluela, partner of WVCoscolluela and Associates.

**TOWER CLUB** visionary Jose L. Cuisia Jr., president and CEO of the Philamlife group (left) with fellow board members Ramon del Rosario Jr., chair and CEO of the AB Capital Investment Corp.; Corazon dela Cruz, chair and senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan and Co.; and Ricardo R. Romulo, senior partner of the Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc Angeles.

JOSE L. Cuisia Jr., former Central Bank governor and now chief executive of the Philamlife group, saw during his many travels abroad that the most advanced cities have clubs where business people mingle and exchange notes.

Cuisia thought it was high time that the Philippines had one of its own, so he decided to turn his vision into reality and put up a city club in his group's building along Paseo de Roxas in Makati City.

Cuisia says his vision is to make the proposed Tower Club the country's finest private business club, counting among its members the cream of the crop in the financial circles, captains of industry, movers of the economy and people with influence.

The concept of the "by-invitation club" was shown to selected members of the business sector who will also be invited to join the exclusive club. It will be managed by CCA Ltd.

Cuisia heads the board of governors of the Tower Club. He is joined by SGV founder Washington SyCip, Ayala Corp. president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II; Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel Pangilinan, Benpres Holdings chair and CEO Oscar Lopez and SSS chair Carlos A. Arellano.

Other board members include Hyland Realty and Development Corp. president Rafael Hechanova, AB Capital CEO Ramon del Rosario Jr., Joaquin Cunanan and Co. chair and senior partner Corazon S. dela Paz, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. president Oscar Reyes, Phinma group head Ramon del Rosario Sr. and Magsaysay Maritime Corp. CEO Doris Magsaysay Ho.

Architect William Cosculluela designed the building plans, while Robert Bilkey of Bilkey Llinas Design Associates, provided the concept for the interiors of the club at the 33rd and 34th floors of the Philamlife Tower.

Cuisia is confident that the Tower Club will meet all standards of excellence once it opens its doors to members later this year.

**SOON-TO-BE** Club members include Arthur Lopez, president and CEO of CCA Philippines; Oscar Llinas, vice president of Bilkey Llinas Design Associates Inc.; Jose L. Cuisia Jr., president and CEO of Philamlife group; Manuel V. Pangilinan, president and CEO of PLDT; Dieter Klostermann, chair of CCA Holdings Inc.; Danilo Ignacio, president of Philam Properties Corp.; and Helmut Knipp, managing director of CCA International.

**RENATO VALENCIA**, chair of the Philippine Savings Bank; Rolly Amparado; Oscar Llinas; Danilo E. Ignacio and William V. Coscolluela.

**PRESENT** at the Tower Club launch were Ramon del Rosario Jr., Washington Sycip and Guillermo Luchangco.

**DIETER KLOSTERMANN,** chair of CCA Holdings Inc.

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# AIM–MAP management educators' workshops

## MAPping THE FUTURE

*Mario Antonio G. Lopez*

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (MAP) and one of its allies, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), are dedicated to propagating excellence in managerial practice.

The MAP and the AIM are likewise firm in their resolve to share their outlook on national issues as responsible corporate citizens to enrich national discussions and help in the evolution of productive action options for meaningful development.

The Management Educators' Workshop (MEW) is one way of achieving these goals.

The MEW was primarily designed to bring together management practitioners and teachers so that the latter would know what the employers want of future managers.

It was also designed to allow AIM to share its main teaching technology, the case method, and its wealth of Asian teaching materials with other management schools.

Through these workshops, both MAP and AIM hope to help prepare the country for the challenges of global competition.

Over the past nine years, MAP and AIM have collaborated to fulfill these goals through the MEW. Since 1992, MAP and AIM conducted nine MEWs where 493 educators from 134 schools participated in. The Makati Rotary Foundation has thrown in its support by contributing over a thousand books that were donated to the libraries of the participating schools.

MAP inaugurated the first MEW on IT in Management Education in 1998 in cooperation with the Ateneo de Zamboanga. More than 40 teachers and management professionals participated in the workshop.

Benny Quiblat, a member of both MAP and the Information Technology Association of the Philippines (ITAP) spiced up this inaugural offering by donating 13 used PCs so the MEW could donate one PC per participating institution.

For many of the schools represented, PCs have not migrated outside administrative offices into the classrooms.

The second MEW on Information Technology in Management Education was held in Cebu in October 1999 which had 77 participants.

The last regular MEW was conducted in Iloilo City with the help of Central Philippine University in Jaro town. Some 35 teachers from Iloilo and Cebu attended the workshop.

The topics covered during the first two years included traditional management and business functions such as human behavior in organizations, marketing, accounting, finance, operations and strategy formulation and implementation.

In the last two years, the topics shifted to issues of current concern like globalization, the economic crisis of 1997, cross-cultural management, ecological (green) management, conflict management, activity-based costing, micro-financing and development management.

The demand for the MEW has grown beyond MAP's financial capacity to mount the program more than once a year. Hence, the MAP committee for MEW came up with an alternative (not a replacement) delivery package to help achieve the same ends that they called the Seminar for Management Educators (SME).

The SME is more concerned with updating subject or course content although delivery will also be stressed.

The first SME was held in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, sponsored by St. Paul's University of Tuguegarao, in December 1998.

MAP picks up the tab for the whole MEW, with AIM providing the majority of the workshop faculty. The Makati Rotary Foundation contributes the books while the ITAP will hopefully keep on providing the used PCs.

In the SME sector, the local schools put up the transport, lodging and board costs for the visiting faculty. MAP gives honoraria for the faculty (which AIM continues to provide).

There will, however, be no book or PC donations involved. The mode will allow MAP to deliver more outreach courses at lower costs. Since the discussions and arrangements will be between AIM and the sponsoring schools, MAP will not incur the management costs associated with the MEW. However, the MEW will remain the flagship outreach program of the MAP-AIM collaboration.

*(The author is chair of Management Association of the Philippines' committee for MEW and assistant dean for the center for development management of the Asian Institute of Management. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)*

# BSP chief . . .

(From page C1)

MARIVIC and Rafael Buenaventura

Last Friday's annual BSP cocktails for bankers was like a "coming out" party for the two as Rufino was present. Traditionally, the wife of the governor attends the yearly get-together of bankers.

Although social and business circles have been speculating about the couple's wedding since 1999, nobody could ascertain whether Buenaventura would marry his girlfriend of six years.

Sources said it was supposed to have been done in France, together with a planned trip of the President to Europe but the trip was canceled and so was the wedding.

Not even an unusually chirpy disposition could make Buenaventura divulge the details of his wedding.

In recent weeks, reporters would attest the temperamental Buenaventura has been keeping his cool amid a gyrating peso and, harsh, pointed questions thrown at him.

He wears no ring, claiming he is allergic to jewelry but people who know the BSP chief to be a typical "appreciative" male kid that the allergy is just an alibi.

The new couple is furnishing a condo unit somewhere, but he refuses to say where exactly they plan to live.

What he admits to is that he now goes home early, right after work, to try and live a normal family life and possibly even cook a mean pasta dish for his wife. He lived five years in Italy as country head of Citibank and that is where he learned to whip up the Italian staple.

"*Maaga na ako umuwi, pagkatapos ng trabaho.* I can't look at other girls anymore," he says smiling.

People who have seen the couple together would attest that they do look very much in love. Never-mind if the wedding is the second for both of them.

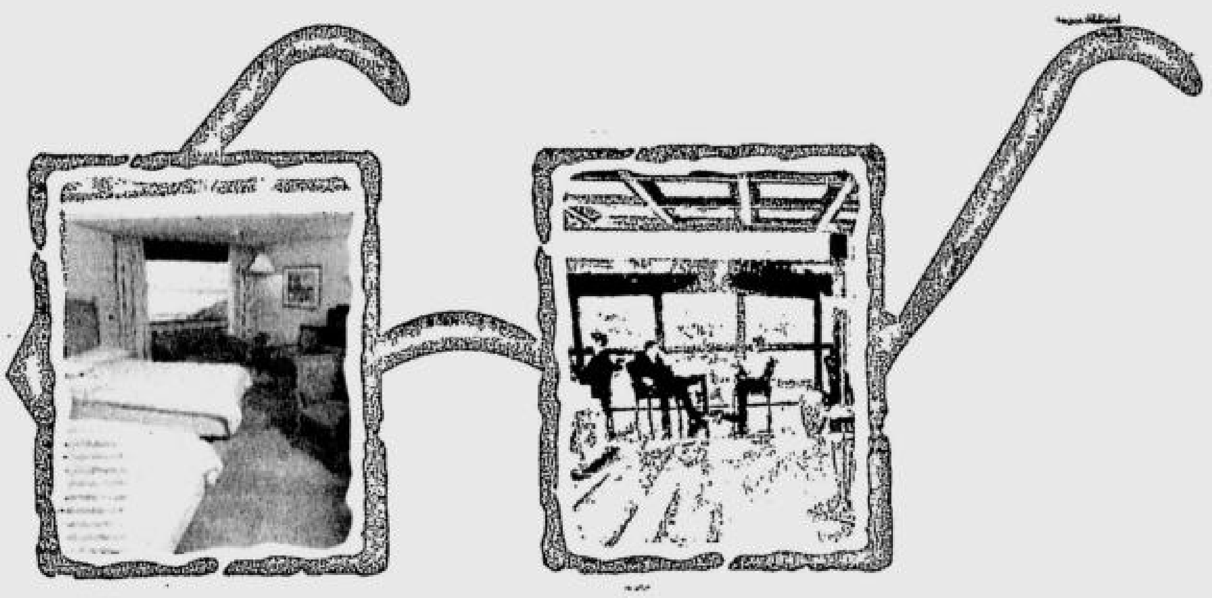
Buenaventura was married to an American up to a couple of years ago. He has two adopted kids, a Chinese and a Vietnamese, one of which, named Paul, works in the financial consulting firm where Buenaventura's brother is a partner, says a source.

Rufino was previously married to a Jacinto of the steel firm clan. She has a son with him. She was once linked to another Rafael—Rafael Ileto, defense secretary during the time of former President Corazon Aquino.

The couple's love life grew and blossomed in the early '90s when Buenaventura, then with the former PCI Bank (now Equitable-PCI Bank) was president of the Bankers' Association of the Philippines sometime in 1993 to 1994 and hired Rufino and lawyer Katrina Legarda, for the group's PR.

Since then Buenaventura and Rufino were often seen in public together.

Buenaventura's oath-taking in Malacañang in July 1999 was the talk of the town as Rufino was present and stood out in a red dress.



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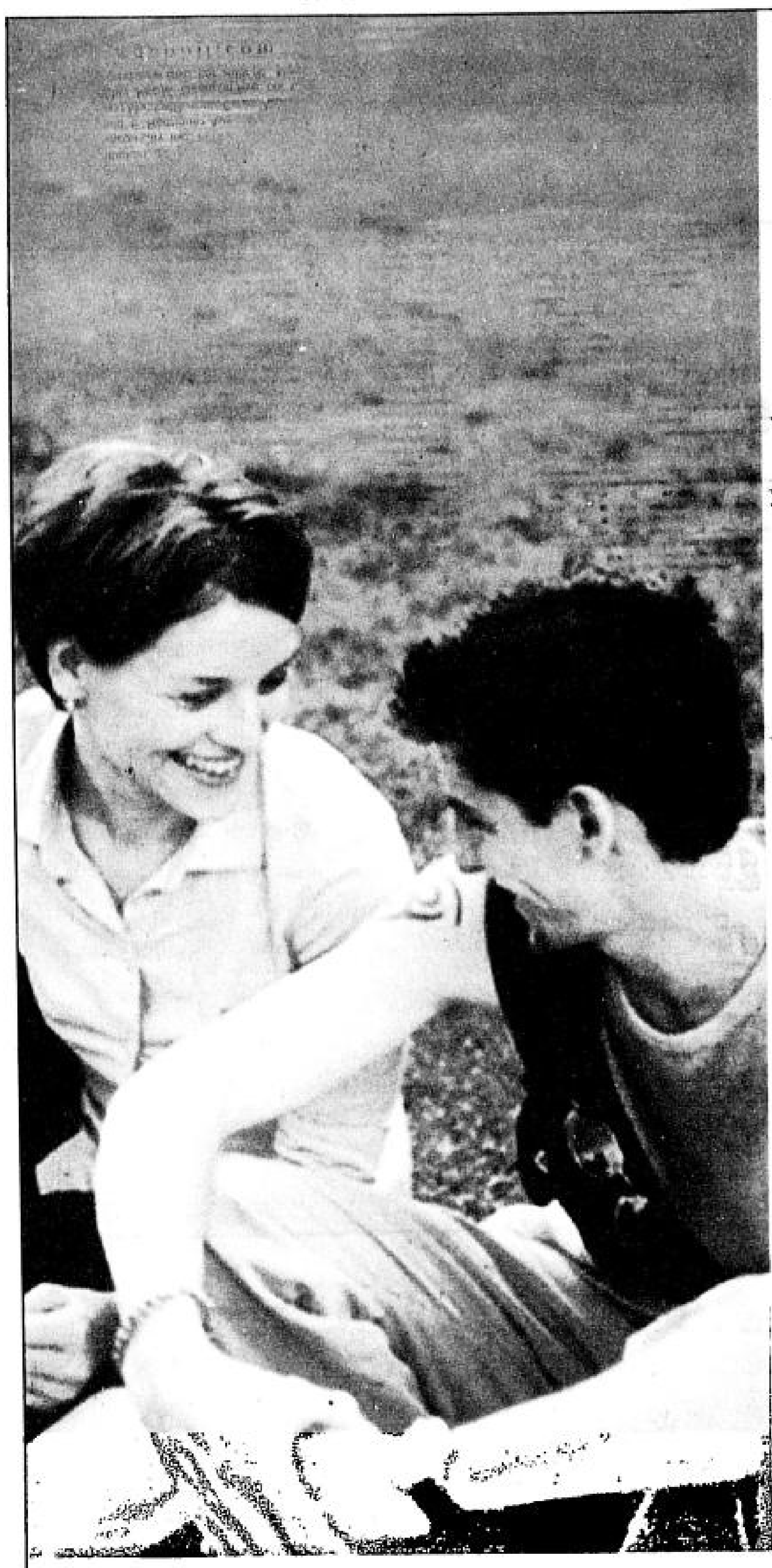

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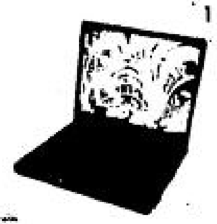

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| One First Prize: | HP Omnibook laptop computer |
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| Ten Third Prizes: | Nokia cellphone* |

After filling up the coupon, it must be dropped at the drop box located at the store where the LaserJet was purchased no later than Feburary 28, 2001. The draw will be on Monday, March 5, 2001 at 3:00 PM at the HP offices, Rufino Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati, under the supervision of the DTI. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Claimants must present the raffle claim stub and proof of purchase to Mojica, de la Paz & Associates, Valuepoint Executive Apartments, 227 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Prizes may be claimed up to 60 days from notification. Cellphone prizes are transferrable but not convertible to cash. A participant can only win once. If his name is drawn more than once, he gets the bigger prize.

Those disqualified from joining this promotion are employees of Hewlett-Packard, their dealers and advertising agencies and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity.

2 Buy 1 printer, get 1 toner FREE!

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For this promotion, the 20% tax of prizes exceeding P10,000 will be paid by Hewlett-Packard.

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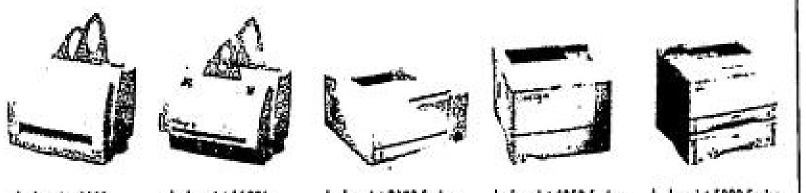

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# Entropy: Measure of disorder in enforcing the law

By Dennis M. Arroyo

**TECHNO-JABBERS**

THE EDSA Revolution in 1986 was probably the Filipino's finest hour. And yet, almost 15 years after Edsa, not one among those who plundered the nation has been sent to jail.

That's sad evidence that the Philippines is a soft state. As argued in a previous article, a soft state in one that hardly enforces the law.

This article discusses the other points raised by Dean Raul Fabella of the UP School of Economics.

Examples of the soft state abound. Nothing is sacred in Malacañang but the mistresses. A consultant gets a fee of P 500,000 a day. A brazen tax evader is honored as the Taxpayer of the Year awardee. A crony gets a gambling franchise with no public bidding.

In every society there is a measure of disorder in enforcing the law. This is called ENTROPY and it varies across nations. Hard states enforce the letter of the law, so they have little entropy. Soft states subject the law to many interpretations—the discretion of the policeman, for one. The less predictable the enforcement of the law, the greater is entropy.

The fact is that businessmen are repelled by entropy. It makes their investments more risky, less profitable. When the rules are reliable, firms know that the rent they pay on office space will not be changed on mere whim. But when the rules are not stable, there lurks the danger of losing the whole business.

In societies with low entropy, the laws of the land carry more weight and information. When entropy is high, when there is little enforcement, laws carry meager information.

This explains the so-called Magee effect of lawyers on economic growth.

"The less informative the letter of the law, the more conflict it generates and the more room for the courts and for lawyers," writes Fabella. "The Magee effect is evidenced by data showing that the more lawyers per thousand population, the lower the economic growth."

Check out the study in the 1989 book by S. Magee, W. Brock and L. Young: Black Hole Tariffs and Endogenous Policy Theory published by Cambridge University Press.

A later study entitled, "The Allocation of Talent: Implications for Growth", confirms the effect. The equations show that a high ratio of law students to the student population results in reduced economic growth.

Fabella believes that the inability to enforce rules probably shaves off 2 percent from annual Gross Domestic Product growth. As he puts it, "Riding a soft state in the global competition is like running a marathon with a low grade fever." *Comments to darroyo@philonline.com*

# Japanese CEO . . .

(From page C1)

He moved on to work for other departments of the company where he learned about planning, sales and marketing and overseas markets. Heading the Philippine operations is his first stint as chief executive.

"All of my years in the different parts of the company contributed to my management style, I like to think that I know almost all about running a company," the 41-year-old Ito says.

Like many Japanese executives, Ito spends considerable hours in the office. He comes in at about 9 a.m. and leaves at 9 p.m. His day extends beyond nine when he meets guests or clients for dinner or for drinks.

Ito's work paid off as he and his staff were able to achieve significant sales growth over the past three years despite the economic situation.

Epson Philippines generated a 30-percent increase in revenue in its first year of operation, 41 percent the following year and 50 percent last year over 1999 figures.

"We doubled our sales in the Philippines since we set up the company here. It is also because we have closer ties with the market here and we can respond faster to their needs compared to just having an office in Hong Kong. I credit this to the overall package of the company where customer satisfaction is very important," Ito says

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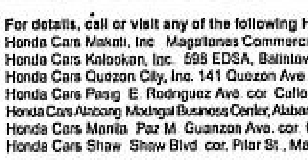

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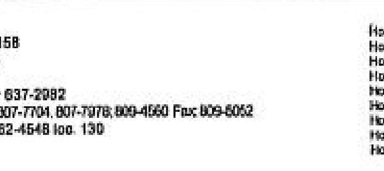

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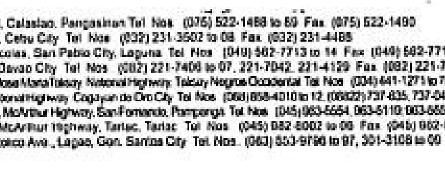

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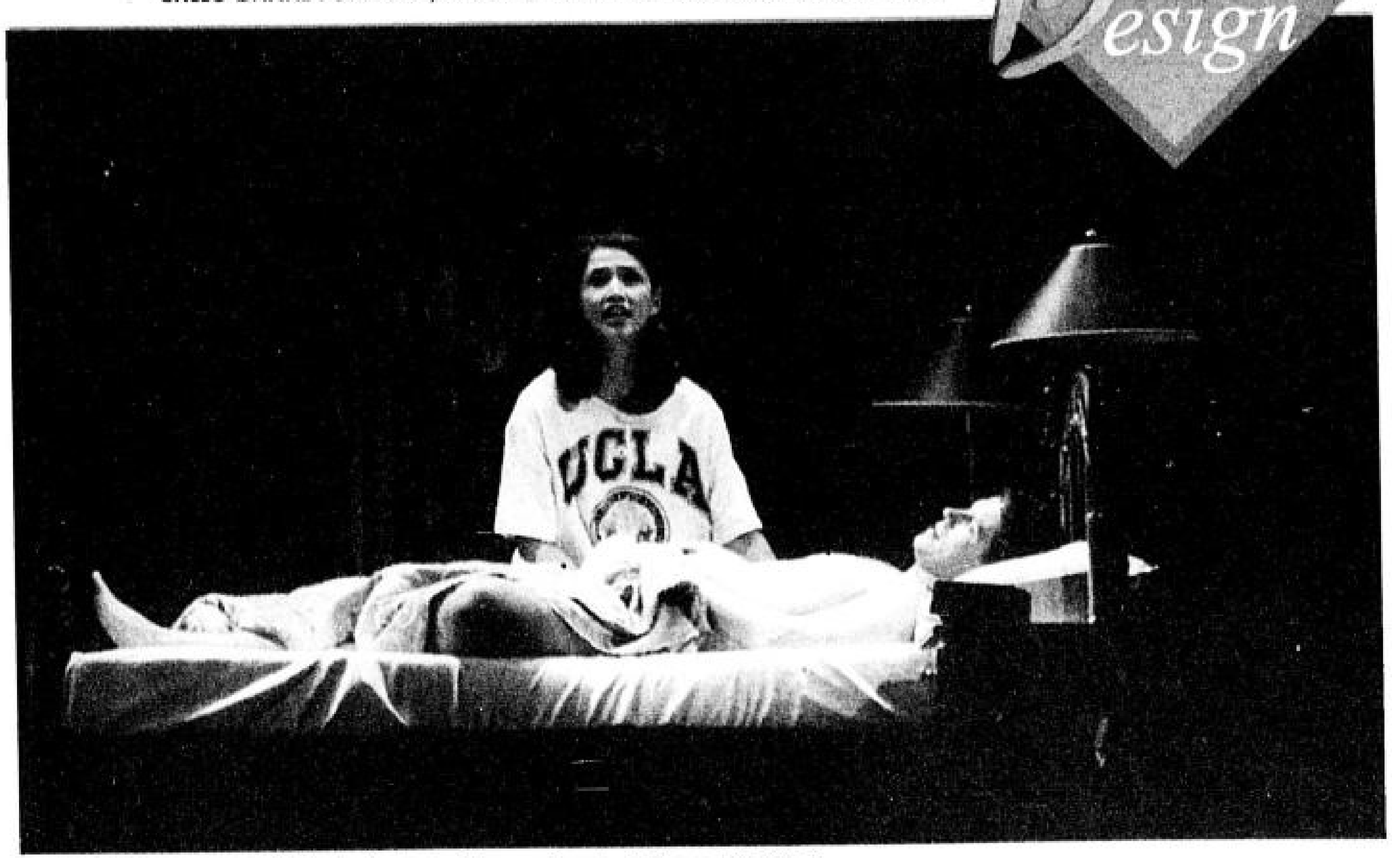

MENCHU Lauchengco Yulo is the new Ellen understudy (here with Scott Anson as the new Chris).

# New cast takes over 'Saigon' in the new year

BY CORA LLAMAS

REVIEW

WILL there be life for "Miss Saigon" Manila after Lea Salonga's last performance on Christmas Eve?

This was the challenge that faced the Cameron Mackintosh mega-musical at the start of the New Year. Since its premiere last October, the show's unprecedented straight six-nights-a-week performances (with weekend matinees) for a long stretch of six months had promised to alter the landscape of Philippine theater. Or, given that the theater audience in this country is still young and growing, should the audience's interest reach its saturation point, the doomed love story set amid the fall of Saigon could find itself playing to an empty house.

> The reward of watching the 'other' cast is seeing a different approach and a different characterization, which add freshness to a worn-out material

There was no question in everybody's mind that what has commonly been called as the "first cast" led by award-winning Salonga in the title role and Leo Valdez as the slimy Engineer was a powerhouse. Regardless of the issues some of the viewing public and the critics might have taken with the melodramatic storyline, racial stereotypes and simplistic approach toward a devastating war that tore apart the collective psyches of at least two nations, no one could resist the tide of passion that the cast released on stage, causing several standing ovations in one night.

Most of these cast members were contracted to play their parts only for three months. Salonga and Will Chase (Chris) left by December to close "Miss Saigon" in New York. Robert Seña (Thuy) and Isay Alvarez (Gigi) made their final bows during the holiday runs. Of the first cast, Ronn K. Smith (John) and Lisa Capps (Ellen) continue in their parts—as well as Valdez who, probably because of enthusiastic public demand, has extended his contract up to the run's end in March.

Now, the question that seems to be in everyone's everybody's mind is: Will the "new" cast be as good? If one goes by the reviews and word of mouth, the new performers do seem to be filling in very big shoes.

### The thing

Salonga's presence in the show was, undoubtedly, one of "Saigon" Manila's strengths and selling points. But Dong Alegre, the show's executive producer, has always emphasized one of Mackintosh's philosophical and artistic cornerstones: "The show is the thing." Meaning, that a theatrical production's long-term success eventually lies in the totality and seamless convergence of the many elements that make it a moving drama or a hilarious comedy: story, writing, message, characterization, production design, technical expertise, score and libretto (if it is a musical) and, of course, the right casting to provide most realistic, convincing performances.

This same high standard extends to the "other" cast (hard to call them "second" or "third"), who go onstage and take over the "first" cast when the latter leave. They are not supposed to be regarded as, in Broadway parlance, "second-stringers."

The alternate—the performer who plays the lead during matinees and takes over when the lead actor can't make it—"is considered [his] equal," says "Saigon" Manila's stage manager Thomas Schilling.

An alternate gets to play a certain number of performances during the run; however, he or she is expected to step in the lead actor's role during the rare cases when the latter gets sick, has to attend to an emergency, or suffers a misfortune on stage, like literally breaking a leg. The same is true of the under

NEW CAST/ p.D8

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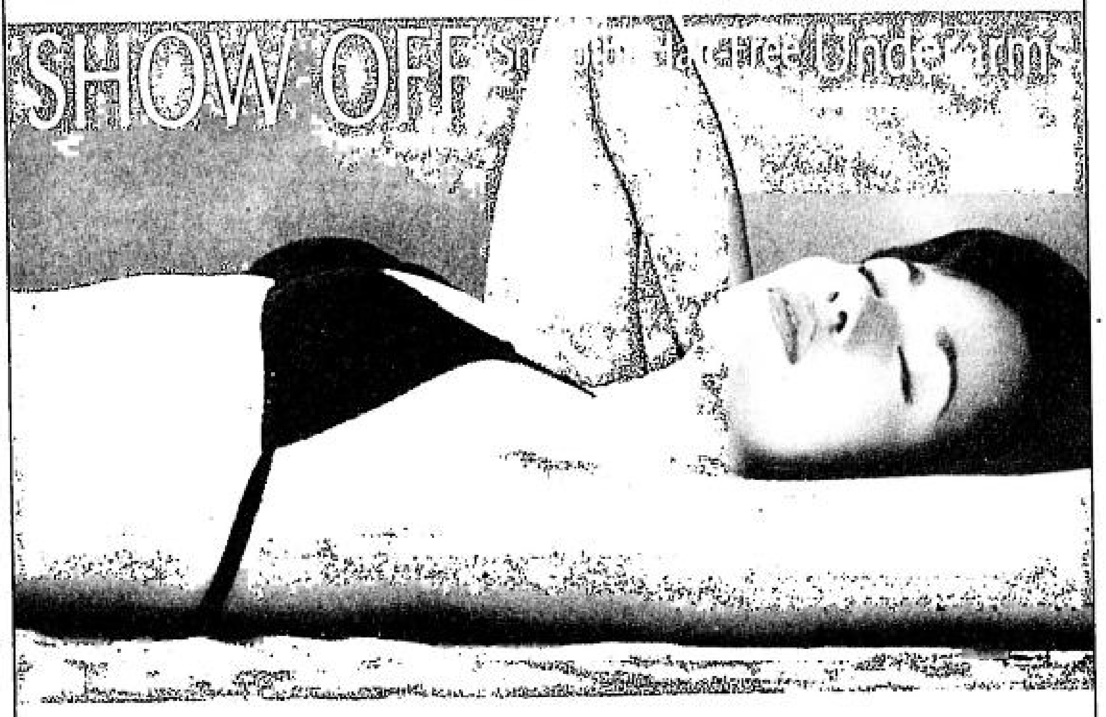

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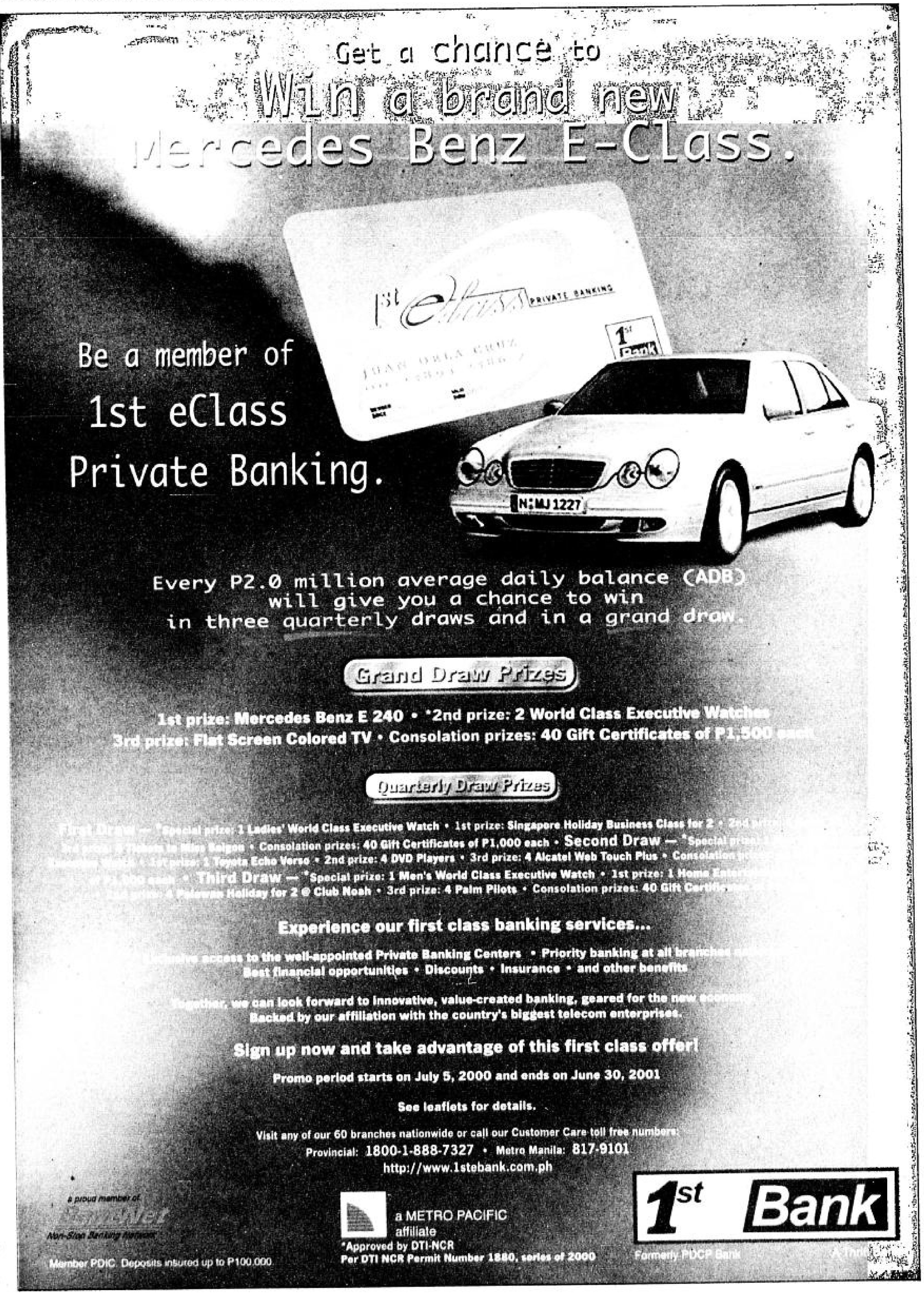

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# The 'bahay kubo,' where form does not necessarily follow function

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

WHAT people in other countries call vernacular architecture we call folk architecture here, but mostly we identify the rural *bahay kubo* as a "native" house.

Vernacular architecture goes beyond the *bahay kubo*. From its origins as a rural bamboo and *nipa* house, it evolved into the urban *bahay na bato* during the Spanish colonial era. From there, certain features evolved into the houses built in the early part of the 20th century during the American regime.

## Very simple

The traditional features of the native house have always been the steeply pitched roof supported by wooden post-and-lintel construction that allowed the raising of the single room of the dwelling on stilts off the ground and providing an open space directly underneath. The house is very simple: usually a square or rectangular structure built of bamboo, wood and roofed (and sometimes walled) with thatch that encloses a single room that could be small enough to shelter just a man and wife or, on the other hand, it could be large enough to sleep the patriarch and matriarch of an extended family that includes their children and their children's families.

There is a wealth of folk knowledge that surrounds the *bahay kubo*. Folklore and beliefs determine the orientation of the house on a site, rituals accompany its construction, communal ties bring neighbors together to construct the house, and custom dictates the lifestyle lived within the small confines of the structure. So it can be said that these houses are shaped in response to the local culture.

However, geography and climate, available natural building materials and local construction skills, could be also said to be the determining factors of the *bahay kubo*. Responding to climate, the most dominant element of the house is its thick roof of thatch that insulates the interior from the tropical sun, rain slides off its steep roof and wide overhangs protect the walls from water, the floor of bamboo slats conducts air into the house even if all openings are shut.

> It might be time to take a good look at traditional architecture, to find ways for rural life to continue in the 'bahay kubo' and to bring in elements of the 21st century so that the residents will not feel left out of the mainstream

The houses, therefore, are a result of many influences: cultural, environmental and technological. This is a case where form does not necessarily follow function because the form of the house dictates how its inhabitants function within it.

## Cebu version

A way of life evolved in response to the single main room within the *bahay kubo*. In the book "Cebu, More Than Just an Island" (Ayala Foundation, Makati, 1997), respected Cebuano architect Melva Java describes the Cebuano *payag* (*bahay kubo*):

"The dwelling consists of one main room of *guinlawasan* which comprises the main body of the house. It is usually left bare except for a long bench that is attached to an adjacent wall. This is the family room, the center of activity, where residents eat and spend the night huddled close to one another.

"To achieve privacy, the Cebuanos have devised a meaningful body language. One 'disappears' or becomes 'no longer present' by simply looking away. This is done when a daughter is in the company of a suitor, or when one changes clothes, or when a son sits by the window to be alone with his thoughts."

The interior of the single-room dwelling illustrates the sophisticated approach by the Filipino toward space. Unlike the western concept of space where each space is assigned a function—sleeping, dining, cooking, etc., Filipino space is open and multifunctional. An eating area is cleared away at night and sleeping mats rolled out for the family to sleep on, or where turning one's back on the central shared space of the room creates privacy. It is a simple open space but its usage complex—where walls are not necessary for privacy, where spaces layer upon each other, where a big communal space gives way to smaller individual spaces.

Rodrigo D. Perez III writes of the *bahay kubo* in "Folk Architecture" (GCF Books, Manila, 1989): "The utter simplicity of the house is all the more impressive in the perfect correspondence of exterior form and interior space. The exterior form defines the totality of space in the one-room dwelling, while the interior space enjoys the full expanse of the structure. There is no dead or buried space within.

"Though small in scale, the native house reveals a sense of architectural mass. It embodies an appreciation of the power of simple volumes—pyramids and the combination of rectangular and triangular masses."

## Anachronism

One can speak of the *bahay kubo* in architectural or cultural terms, even look at it as something that we have in common with our neighbors since it appears in one form or another in all Southeast Asian countries.

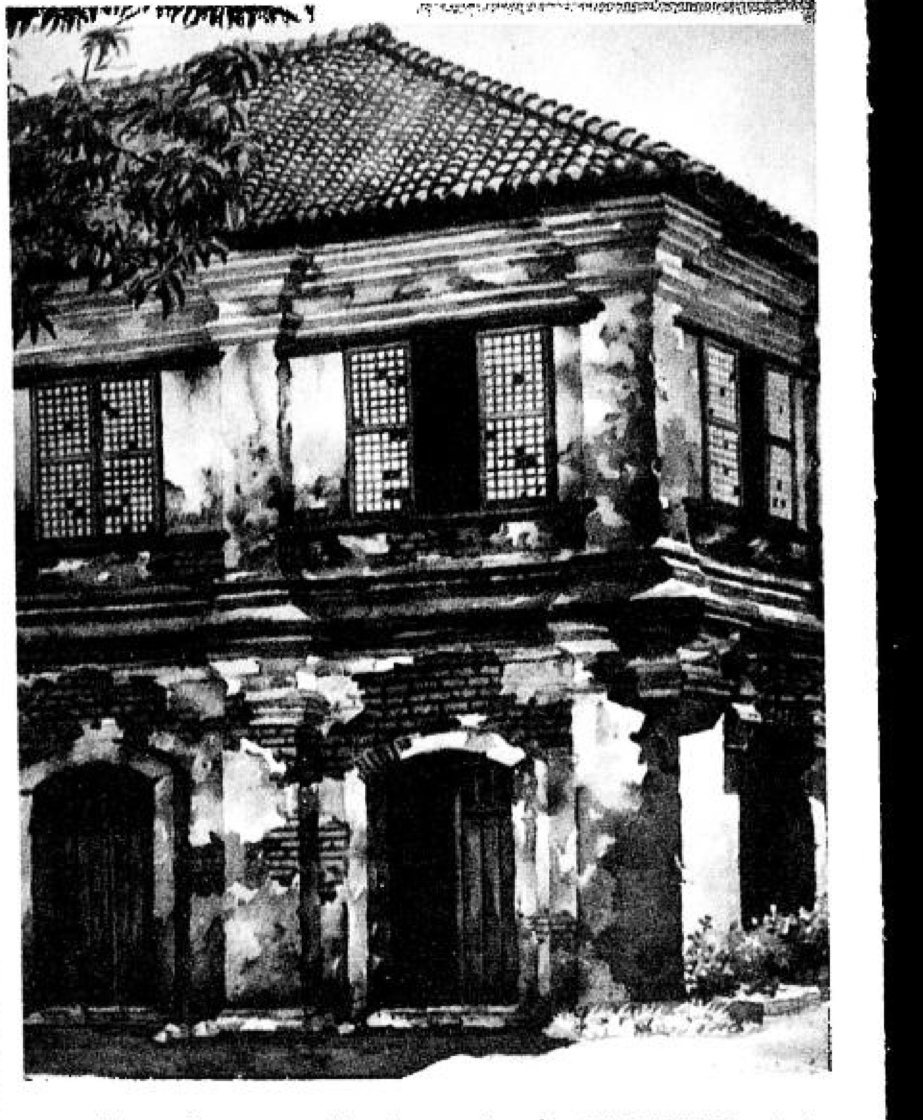
However, in this day and age, these traditional houses have become an anachronism. The more fortunate of their residents have, over time and generations, built new houses of cement roofed with galvanized iron roofing. It matters little that the new house is not safe from floods, oven-hot in the summer and that typhoon rains deafen the residents as it drums on the thin roof. The concrete house is the supreme status symbol.

The less fortunate have moved to the fringes of cities, where they live in urban versions of the *bahay kubo*, temporary shanties constructed of whatever material they have salvaged.

The traditional *bahay kubo*, or *payag* in Cebuano, stands either alone or in small clusters in rural areas, some of them a distance away from the nearest road, without water supply and sewage, without electricity and communication. Life in a *bahay kubo* is not easy.

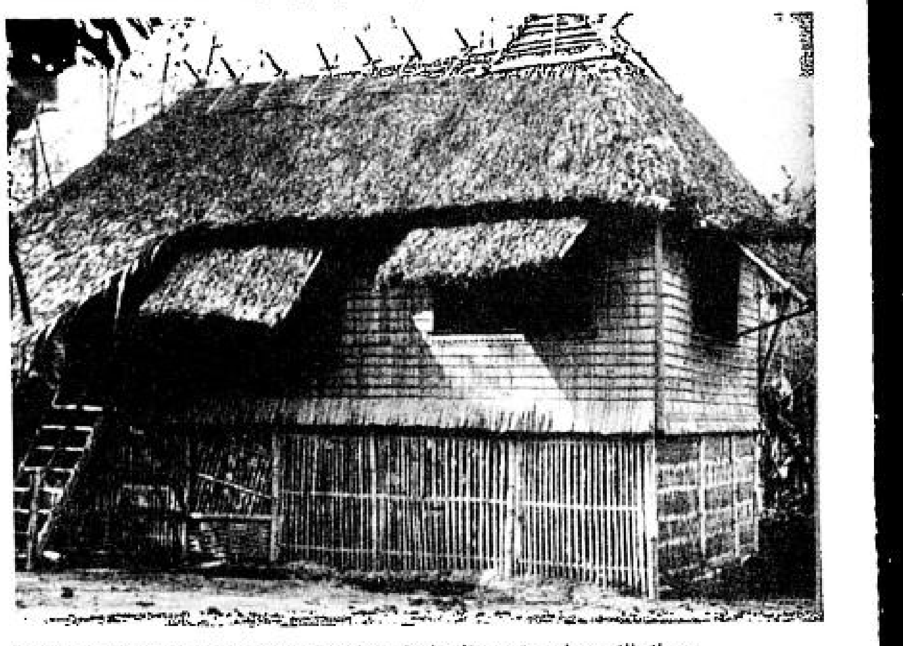
It might be time to take a good look at traditional architecture, to find ways for rural life to continue in the *bahay kubo* and to bring in elements of the 21st century so that the residents will not feel left out of the mainstream. If steps are not taken, then we might as well write an epitaph for traditional architecture.

*E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph*



**THE** ***BAHAY*** *na bato* in artistic representation

**THE** ***BAHAY*** *kubo* is a veritable garden house.



**BAMBOO** slats provide the *bahay kubo* its natural ventilation.

# Art as confessional space

BY GINO DORMIENDO

THE VARIOUS works of 29 Young artists—students and alumni of the University of the Philippines' College of Fine Arts—were shown recently at the SM Megamall Art Center. Titled "True Confessions: Words, Thoughts, Acts," the exhibit offered diverse views on what these participating artists, embroiled in the relentless spirit of experimentation and innovation, have articulated in the various media, revealing highly personal if intimate aspects of their aesthetic persona, as clued in by the exhibition title, and to which the viewer was asked to "participate" in the concept or experience being proffered.

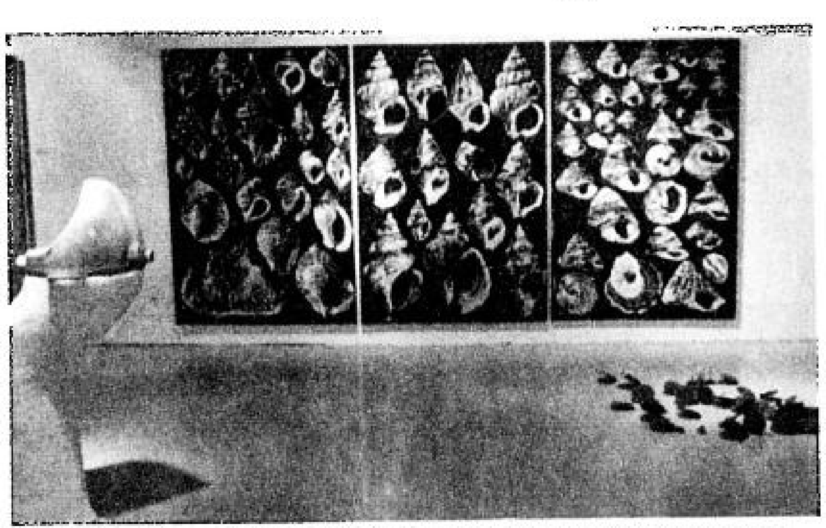
Organized by Finale, the show was curated by Roberto Chabet, the lightning rod of the avant-garde movement in this country, under whose wings many of these artists have been nurtured. Chabet's influence extends far beyond the confines of the College of Fine Arts, gaining adherents for the radicalism that he espouses, the kind of art that, to quote the great artist Willem de Mooning, "never makes me peaceful or pure."

The personal concerns of each participant were echoed in the varying modes in which their works have been assembled, or put together, as well as in the marvel in which they wittily manipulated the human and environmental condition, allowing the viewer or spectator ample room with which to experience the total impact of this contemplative arena of canvases, assemblages and installations, photographs, electronic media, found objects and the like.

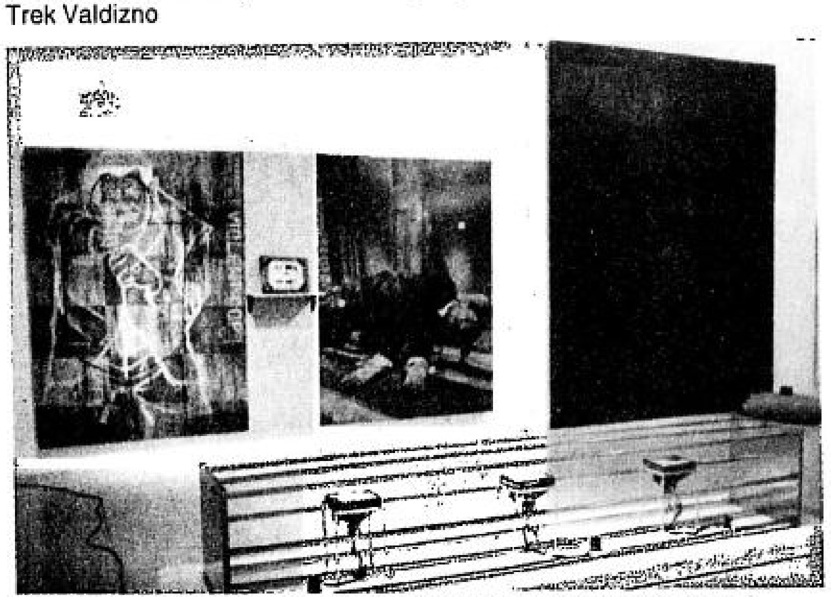
## Jungle

There was, for instance, Nona Garcia's "Chevy II," which combined a large-scale painting of a vintage American car, set in the lush backdrop of the UP campus, and accompanied with a road map of the length and breadth of the university. The light box on the map, once switched on, was intended as a guide for the viewer (or traveler) to help him find his way through this labyrinthine maze, a circuitous territory of signs and symbols, with its allusions to the bigger concrete jungle we inhabit.

Garcia is of course the country's most celebrated artist today, having won the grand prize at the 2000 Asean Art Awards, with her entry "See Saw," a diptych on the horrors of the technological age, which a judge had hailed as a "cerebral and technical triumph in serious art making."



**WORKS** by (from left) Bernardo Pacquing, Elaine Roberto Navas and Trek Valdizno



**WORKS** by Geraldine Javier (left), Gary-Ross Pastrana (right) and Gerardo Tan (foreground)

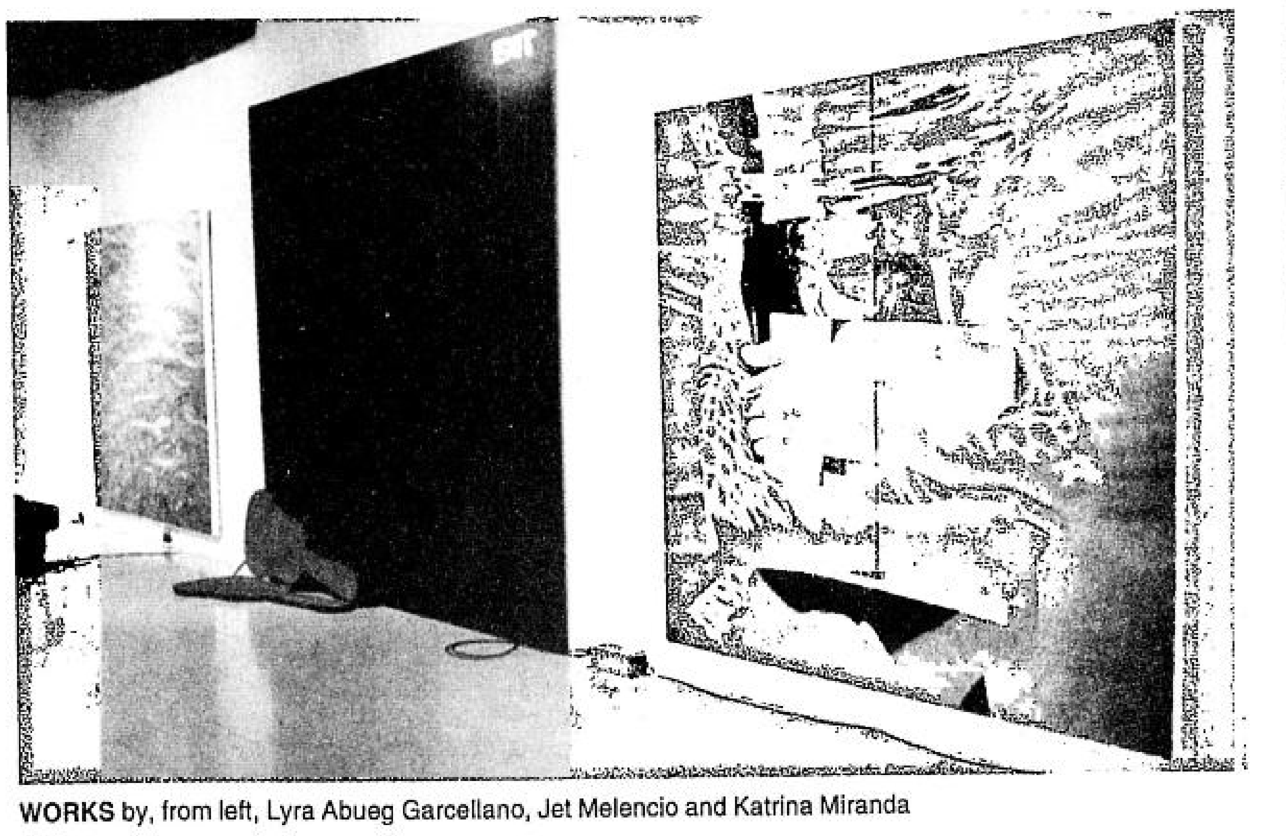
The leitmotif of the voyage was further reinforced in Alfred Cruz's "Stills from the MRT," with 73 color photographs of variable dimensions documenting those fleeting moments aboard the train that virtually scanned traces, poses, gestures and demeanor of its passengers, humanity literally cooped up in transit.

Likewise, Ronald Anading and Ringo Bunoan's "Walking Distance" documented on video the exact distance between both ends of the floor space the viewer makes in relation to the image that has been recorded, with its own parallels to life-and-medium, viewer-and-viewed juxtaposition.

Ditto with Lena Cobangbang's "Search and Destroy Missions," with its collection of 70 color slides, dymo tag label and Christmas lights that dramatized the presence of the most powerful pop drink of our times and how it has penetrated the deepest core of the contemporary junk-food generation.

A number of works were more deconstructionist in spirit, like Mariano Ching's "Eating Dynamites," where old and new—as tradition and change—were cleverly juxtaposed on a triptych, with its rendering of a famous portrait by Juan Luna and characters drawn from a Walt Disney animation that figured prominently in the two surrounding panels.

Other highly revealing works were those of Geraldine Javier, whose three pieces—"Fire Hazard," "The Browning of Leaves" and "Death in the Morning"—collectively dramatized the pervading tension that gripped the moment, as captured in the painting of a man sprawled dead on the pavement, or in the act of leafing through the crackling pages of an old album, and the depiction of an ordinary household object that can possibly ignite a conflagration.



**WORKS** by, from left, Lyra Abueg Garcellano, Jet Melencio and Katrina Miranda

## Monumentality

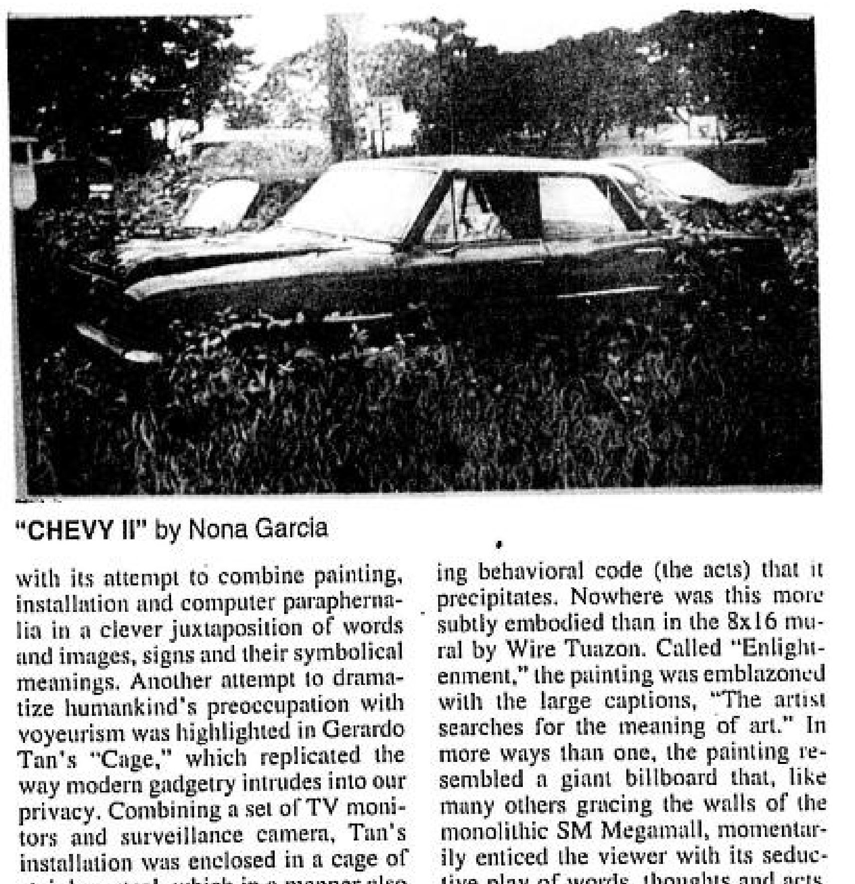
Of the various installations in the exhibit, Juan Alcarazen's "Come and Link Us" disarmed the viewer with its emblematic use of pieces of wood strung together on the floor and ultimately rising to a height of 20 ft. Clearly obsessed with the depiction of height as an emblem of monumentality, he had another piece, "Fell Late Show," this time in aluminum and steel reaching 15 ft, that showed his aesthetic predilection.

Juni Salvador's "Dark Intentions" combined an aluminum ladder with a shell perched on its topmost rung, both spray-painted in black, with its subtle commentary on environmental degradation that stalks modern society, symbolized in the semiotic play between the two everyday objects.

Jonathan Olazo's "Age" likewise extended the boundaries of painting by combining the grainy textures of canvas and installation from the wall onto the floor, as he depicted the trail of ants in their unending quest for survival.

These young artists were clearly enamoured with the neuroses of the computer age as in Gary-Ross Pastrana's "Re-arming the Black Square," with its attempt to combine painting, installation and computer paraphernalia in a clever juxtaposition of words and images, signs and their symbolical meanings. Another attempt to dramatize humankind's preoccupation with voyeurism was highlighted in Gerardo Tan's "Cage," which replicated the way modern gadgetry intrudes into our privacy. Combining a set of TV monitors and surveillance camera, Tan's installation was enclosed in a cage of stainless steel, which in a manner also enclosed the passing viewer's image onto the monitor.

There are certainly other modes of discovering, exposing and unearthing the subconscious and the corresponding behavioral code (the acts) that it precipitates. Nowhere was this more subtly embodied than in the 8x16 mural by Wire Tuazon. Called "Enlightenment," the painting was emblazoned with the large captions, "The artist searches for the meaning of art." In more ways than one, the painting resembled a giant billboard that, like many others gracing the walls of the monolithic SM Megamall, momentarily enticed the viewer with its seductive play of words, thoughts and acts. This seduction ultimately was trained on the product itself. In this age of VCDs, PlayStations and laptops, art making will have to reckon with the image as the bearer of the message.



**"CHEVY II"** by Nona Garcia

# Oil of Sto. Niño helps heal a baby's heart illness

**PURELY PERSONAL**

*Josephine Darang*

AS devotees of the Sto. Niño de Providencia prepare for the 9th anniversary of the miracles wrought by the Christ Child, another miracle cure was reported by the grand-aunt of a baby boy born at the Davao Doctors Hospital last January 2000.

Baby Jaime Ruel M. Solante was born with a congenital heart defect. The doctors suggested immediate operation at the Cardiac Center in Manila. This meant preparing P100,000 for the operation and P14,000 as initial payment at the Cardiac Center and money to pay for the expenses of the doctor who would accompany the baby.

Since the parents of the baby could not raise the amount needed, they asked assistance from their aunt Libbie Deunida who lives in Metro Manila. The aunt sent the couple the miraculous oil of the Sto. Niño de Providencia which she got during the fiesta of the image last Jan. 27. She advised them to pray and rub the oil on the chest of the baby. The couple did so every day until the oil was consumed.

When the next ECG was done on the baby, the doctor was heard to exclaim: "It's a miracle. I have never seen anything like this in my practice." Apparently, the defect obtained at birth was considerably reduced that the doctor decided not to perform the surgery anymore.

In a letter last November to Ms Deunida from her niece, it said that the baby has completely healed and has been growing stronger every day.

### Fiesta on Jan. 27

The feast of the Sto. Niño de Providencia falls on Jan. 27, Saturday. It will be the 9th year since the image sweated oil that is used to heal the sick. As early as 7 a.m. the chapel will be opened for prayers.

**ALBERT** Seeland with son Jordan in a 1991 photo

Guest priests will anoint the people with the holy oil. Novenas, oil and rosaries will be given away for free.

The street (Aurora Pijuan in BF Resort Village) will be closed to accommodate the hundreds of devotees who will come. At exactly 2 p.m. the people will bring the image to the Mary Mother of the Church Parish inside the village in a motorcade which will culminate in a Holy Mass.

Lorna Gonzales, owner of the chapel, would like to ask devotees to join in the motorcade instead of going straight to the church. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Jerry Habulan, parish priest, with some guest priests. After the Mass, the image borne in a *carroza* will be brought back to the chapel in a procession.

### Mass of thanksgiving

The rich and the poor, men, women and children will come together in a spirit of thanksgiving for illnesses healed, broken homes made whole again, financial needs met and provided for. Thank you, Sto. Niño, for your love for us.

### Congregacion exhibit and procession

THE CONGREGACION del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus will hold the 22nd annual fiesta with an exhibit from Jan. 18-28 at the PNB Financial Center on Roxas Boulevard. Registration begins on Jan. 15 and ends on Jan. 17. The exhibit will be open to the public from Jan. 19-27. The grand procession will take place on Jan. 28. Formal opening is on Jan. 18. The founding chair of the Congregacion is Ben Farrales. President is Jing Chua. Chair of the board is Antonio Adriano. Approximately 400 images will be exhibited.

### Sto. Niño fiesta in Cebu

THE THIRD Sunday of January is the feast of the Sto. Niño which is Jan. 21 this year. Devotees from Manila book their flight to Cebu early because all flights are full by the time the fiesta approaches. Some people will come only for the procession that takes place on Jan. 20; while others stay for the Sinulog the following day.

People come for various reasons: one of them is to thank the Christ Child for answered prayers. Others come to fulfill a *panata* or to ask the Sto. Niño de Cebu for a miracle to happen in their lives. I am going back this time to thank Him for my healing.

### Prisoners need help

MANUEL Navoa who was saved from the electric chair in 1978 for a crime he did not commit has spent the past 22 years helping prisoners get the basic necessities such as toothpaste, soap, toothbrush and even pencil and paper and stamps, so they could write their families. Manuel also reads the Bible to them, give them rosaries, holy pictures that help revive their faith in the Lord.

Those who want to help can write Manuel Navoa c/o Luz Lugay, Barangay Matatalaib, Tarlac, Tarlac or c/o Ben Soriano, Parkplace Condominiums on Guijo Street, San Antonio Village, Makati.

### Goodbye, Albert

ON CHRISTMAS Day every year, I would have lunch with Albert Seeland at the Tempura Misono in the Hyatt Hotel where he worked as restaurant manager. In the afternoon, he would bring a busload of about 50 to 100 street children to the house of Anne de Guzman in Forbes Park for *merienda* and the distribution of gifts.

Last Christmas, neither lunch nor *merienda* happened. Albert passed away on Dec. 24 at 10 p.m. due to a massive stroke. He was rushed to the Perpetual Hospital in Las Piñas in the afternoon by a neighbor, Nanette Oropesa, her son Jordan and her nephews. But he did not survive.

The news of his untimely death shocked his friends. When I got the beep of Grace Pilapil, a neighbor of Albert, at 12 midnight, I trembled in fear knowing that things would never be the same again in the lives of his close friends.

I for one know that I've lost someone who was both friend and brother to me. He would comfort me when something went wrong. He would make me laugh by bursting into a song of love.

The problem is who will now play Santa Claus to the hundred street children living around the Baclaran area. Albert was also known to bring them to the Elvis Presley Restaurant at the airport. He would hire bus to transport them.

This column would like to thank Joe Mari Chan and the Hyatt Hotel management for handling the hospital bills and funeral expenses. And also to Rene Acuña and Danny Jacinto who were there at the hospital with him. We will all miss Albert, but we know that he would find his final happiness in Heaven.

**STO.** Niño de Providencia

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# A love for life and art

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

FOR ALMOST five decades now, 74-year-old Dehlia Nery Napay Rebustillo has taken on serious, humanistic themes with no more than delicate whispers of oil, colored pencil and charcoal pencil on canvas.

Since her husband, Judge Jesus Rebustillo, died in 1997, Dehlia concentrated on painting a myriad of subjects. She worked relentlessly that her pieces have filled every nook and cranny of her house in Albay, Bicol.

So Dehlia decided to put her 50 creations on exhibit at the Sunshine Learning Center at Tagas, Daraga, Albay and at the Art Gallery of the Albay Provincial Capitol. The exhibition entitled "At 70, a Dancer's Show in Oil" is ongoing until Feb. 2.

### Means of escape

Dehlia's oil-washed and charcoal pencil-filled world features her family, the Ibalong epic, flowers, landscapes, nudes, religious icons, ballet and Christmas.

Part of the show's proceeds will be donated to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Lidong, Polangui, Albay.

Dehlia's career can be seen as a testament to the nurturing power of boredom. Art has become her means of escape from the stifling loneliness, especially when her husband passed away.

Since 1939, she has been dancing, creating and teaching ballet to countless Bicolano lovers of dance.

She studied classical ballet under the tutelage of Ricardo Cassell at the Manila Ballet Academy. Then she actively participated in various workshops conducted by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Philippine Folk Dance Society. She was also fortunate to have Martha Graham, Norman Walker, Francisca Aquino and Ramon Obusan as dance mentors.

Although she had done solo performances in Legazpi City, Dehlia prefers doing choreography, which ranges from full-length ballets and dance dramas to jazz numbers and ballroom dances. She is also busy with teaching dance at the Sunshine Learning Center since 1988 and at her own DNR Dance Studio since 1955.

Aside from being a cellist of the Bicol and Albay Chamber Music Society, she is also preoccupied with drawing and painting, in which she admits she had no formal training. "It's all a matter of common sense and the right combination of taste, balance and strokes," Dehlia says.

### Childlike simplicity

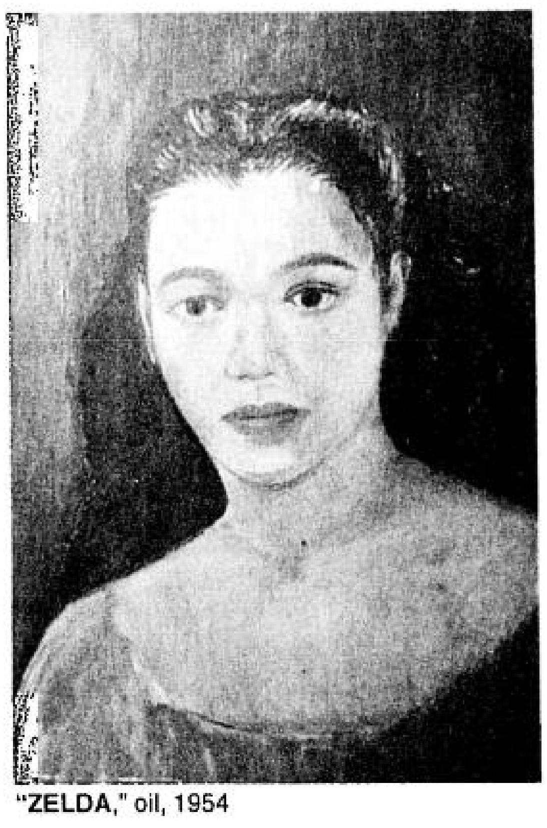
Dehlia's pictures, compact and whimsical, result in childlike simplicity. The images celebrate the nourishing and magical power of imagination.

The artist's work is rooted, quite obviously, in an unabashed optimism about life and the sincere belief that being a good citizen should come naturally.

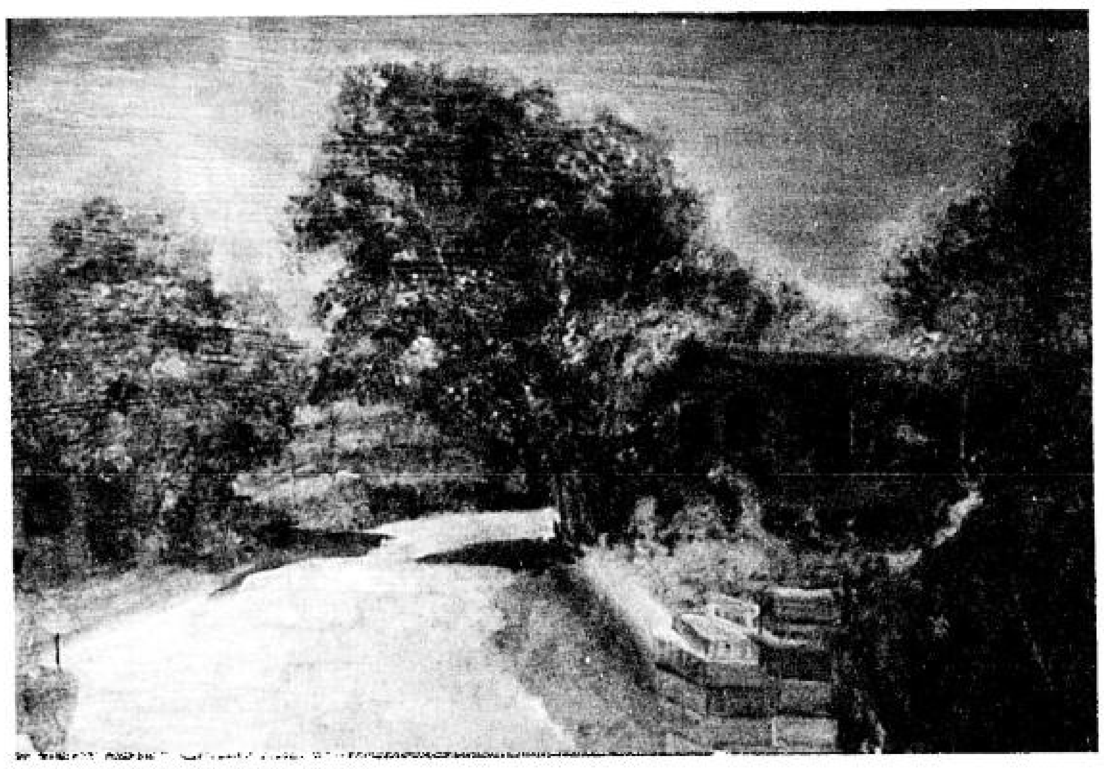
The most significant thing an artist can do is change our way of seeing. After looking at some of Dehlia's works, you begin to see the world as she does. That view is compassionate, curious and more spiritual than sentimental.

*E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph*

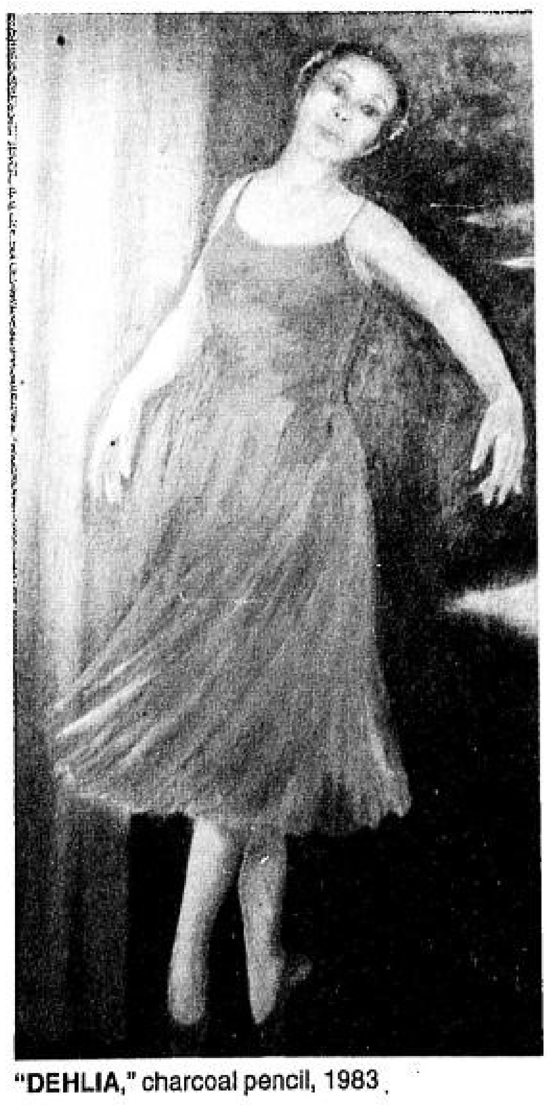
Bicol's Dehlia Nery Napay Rebustillo continues her love affair with the brush



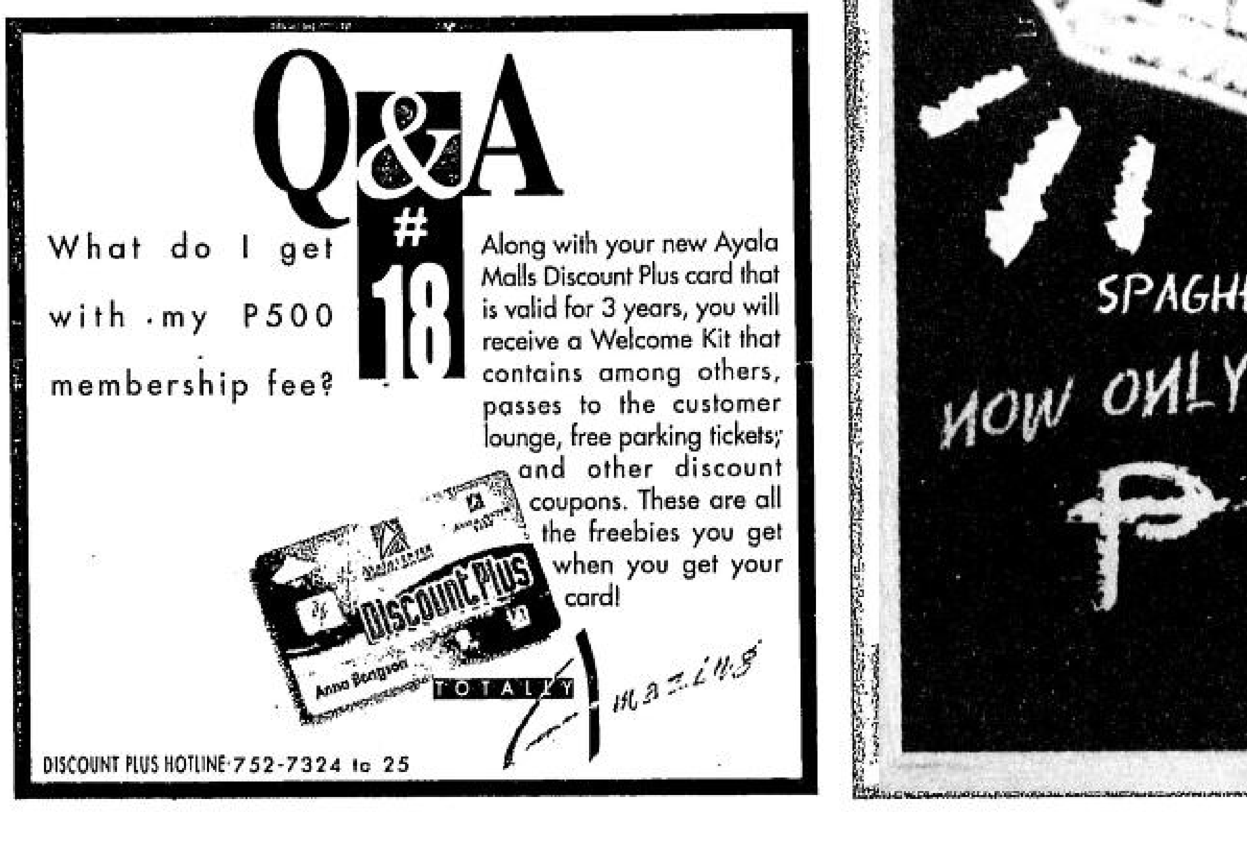
**"ZELDA,"** oil, 1954



**"PINARIC AT NOON,"** oil, 1996



**"DEHLIA,"** charcoal pencil, 1983



Q&A
What do I get with my P500 membership fee?
# 18
Along with your new Ayala Malls Discount Plus card that is valid for 3 years, you will receive a Welcome Kit that contains among others, passes to the customer lounge, free parking tickets; and other discount coupons. These are all the freebies you get when you get your card!
TOTALLY Amazing
DISCOUNT PLUS HOTLINE 752-7324 to 25

Discount Plus
Anna Bengson

JOLLIBEE
EVERYDAY SPECIALS
ONLY TODAY
JAN. 8
SPAGHETTI SPECIAL
NOW ONLY
₱19
SAVE ₱10
Jollibee

# SMART zed™

ALL SMART zed services are AUTOMATICALLY available to all existing and future SMART GOLD & BUDDY subscribers.

SMART zed™
1
3def
6mno
9wxyz
#

### 1. What is SMART zed?

SMART zed is a mobile portal that houses local and global information and data services from SMART and Sonera zed. The concept is similar to a hypermarket or "supermall" where you can buy all kinds of goods and commodities. In the case of SMART zed, you can avail of the widest range of information and services on your SMART GSM celfone. SMART zed services are all network-based and thus, are not dependent on any particular SIM card. All you need is a SMART GOLD or BUDDY subscription to automatically enjoy SMART zed services.

### 2. How do I access SMART zed services?

ALL SMART zed services are AUTOMATICALLY available to all existing and future SMART GOLD & BUDDY subscribers. You can access SMART zed services using your current SMART GSM subscription in three ways:

- Wireless Application Protocol or W@P
- Text Messaging via the SMART zed STK SIM card
- Text Messaging via keywords

### 3. Do I have to register to access SMART zed?

No, there is no need to register to access SMART zed services. SMART zed is automatically available to all SMART GSM subscribers.

### 4. What are the requirements to access SMART zed services?

The only requirement to access SMART zed services, is that you are an active SMART GOLD or BUDDY subscriber.

### 5. Do I have to upgrade or change my current celfone to access SMART zed services?

No, there is no need to change or upgrade your current celfone. You can access SMART zed services using your current SMART dual-band GSM celfone.

### 6. Do I have to upgrade or change my current SIM card to access SMART zed services?

No, you do not have to change or upgrade your current SIM card, whether it be a 32K STK, a JAVA MBS or a non-STK SIM card. However, life would be so much easier if you had a SMART zed STK SIM card.

### 7. What is the SMART zed STK SIM card?

The SMART zed STK SIM card is a menu-driven, click-and-browse type of SIM card which allows you quick access to the wide array of SMART zed services. You simply scroll down the SMART zed Menu on your SIM card and click on your desired service. It's fast, convenient and very easy to use.

### 8. How do I get a SMART zed STK SIM card?

You can get the SMART zed STK SIM card by buying it from your nearest TSI outlet, at any SMART dealer or SMART Telecenter. Suggested retail price of a SMART BUDDY SIM Pack with a SMART zed STK SIM card is P990 (VAT inclusive).

### 9. When using W@P, how do I access SMART zed services?

If you are using W@P on your SMART GSM W@P celfone, you can access SMART zed services by logging on to the SMART W@P site and clicking on the SMART zed link. This will bring you to the SMART zed W@P site where you can access and enjoy all of SMART zed's services.

### 10. When using a non SMART zed STK SIM card, how do I access SMART zed services?

If you are using a non-SMART zed STK SIM card, you can automatically access all SMART zed services. You can use the SMART zed Keywords Manual as a guide on how to request and order SMART zed services. Simply visit your nearest SMART Telecenter, TSI outlet or any authorized dealer to get a complimentary copy of the SMART zed Keywords Manual.

### 11. What does personalization of SMART zed services mean? How do I access it?

Personalization means that you can actually make a one-time order for specific information services. These services will be sent to your SMART GSM celfone regularly on the dates and times you asked for without requesting for them every time.

Both SMART zed STK and non-SMART zed STK users may order SMART zed services that they want to be sent to them regularly.

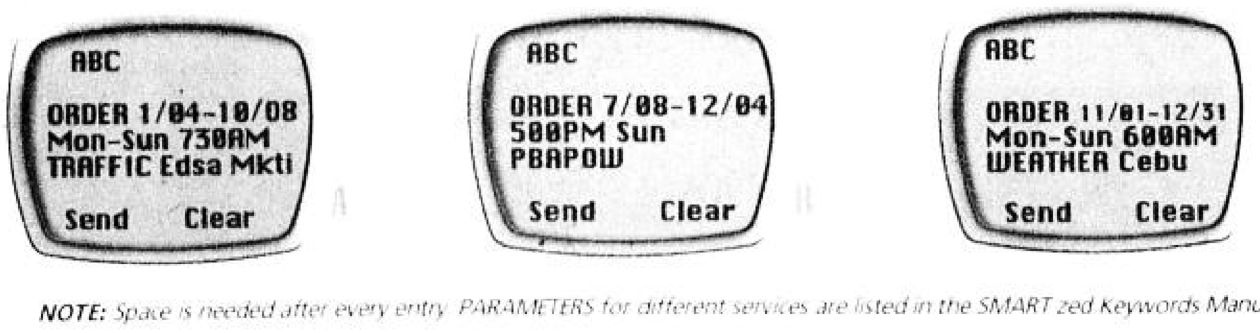
**Here's how:**

**Web:** To make your order via the Web, register your SMART GSM mobile number by logging on to **www.smart.zed.com**. After completing the process, you will then receive your SMART zed password. Log on and follow web instructions on how to order.

**Text**

1) To make your order via Text Messaging, follow the text format:

| ORDER | time period | frequency | time | KEYWORD | *parameter |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) ORDER | 1/04-10/08 | Mon-Sun | 730AM | TRAFFIC | Edsa Mkti |
| b) ORDER | 7/08-12/04 | Sun | 500PM | PBAPOW<br>(PBA Player of the Week) | |
| c) ORDER | 11/01-12/31 | Mon-Sun | 600AM | WEATHER | Cebu |



ABC

ORDER 1/04-10/08
Mon-Sun 730AM
TRAFFIC Edsa Mkti

ABC

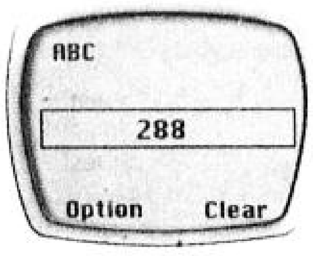
ORDER 7/08-12/04
500PM Sun
PBAPOW

ABC

ORDER 11/01-12/31
Mon-Sun 600AM
WEATHER Cebu

*NOTE: Space is needed after every entry. PARAMETERS for different services are listed in the SMART zed Keywords Manual.*

2) Send to 288.



ABC

288

### 12| What are the different SMART zed services that I can personalize?

**NEWS**
National News
Regional News
News in Tagalog
Frontpage
Saksi

World News
Asia Business News
Traffic Updates
Local Weather

Sports News
- PBA
- NBA
- Golf
- Tennis

**GAMES**
Sweepstakes
Lotto Results
Horse Racing
Trivia

**ENTERTAINMENT**
Horoscope
Jokes
Today in History
Word of the Day
Quote of the Day

**LEISURE**
Books
Movie List
Race Results

**BANKING & BUSINESS**
Stock Quotes
Stock Index
- (PSE, Mining, etc.)

Exchange Rates
Foreign Index

Mutual Fund Prices
Time Deposit Rates
Jobs

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 13. How do I access the new SMART zed PET PAL service?

With the SMART zed PET PAL service, you can own a virtual dog, cat, parrot or dolphin. Feed it with cereals, fish, meat, ice cream, or milk, or even give it a bath and put it to sleep. Follow the instructions below on the different pet actions available for the PET PAL service.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Get Pet | GETPET <pet name><br>*Choose from: SPARKEE (dog)*<br>*KAYTEE (cat)*<br>*CLAWEE (parrot)*<br>*BUBLEE (dolphin)* | 233 |
| Change Pet name | PET NAME <new pet name><br>*Here, you may give your pet a unique name.* | 233 |
| Pet Action | PET BATHE | 233 |
| | PET CURE | 233 |
| | PET FEED <FOOD TYPE><br>*Choose from: CEREALS, FISH, MEAT, ICE CREAM, MEAT* | 233 |
| | PET HUG | 233 |
| | PET PLAY | 233 |
| | PET SLEEP | 233 |
| | PET HEALTH | 233 |
| Pet View | VIEWPET <PET NUMBER> | 233 |

**REMINDERS:**

1) PET PAL service includes reminders or alerts which tell you how your pet is doing (like if it is hungry, dirty, sleepy, etc). These alert messages are NOT chargeable to you. They serve only to remind you about your pet. Charges begin only when you send a message or pet action. Please refer to your SMART zed Keywords Manual or scroll down the SMART zed Menu on your SMART zed STK SIM card to access the PET PAL service.

2) Viewing of your PET PAL is only available for NOKIA celfone models (For 6150 models, only versions higher than 4.11 are compatible). This function is operator logo-dependent. If you are using a non-Nokia celfone model, you can still maintain a PET PAL, however, you will not be able to view it.

3) To be able to view the pet, you have to type the 7-digit pet number. The number is given when you inquire about the health status of your pet (PET HEALTH and send to 233).

## 14. How do I request for ring tones, logos, icons and picture messages with SMART zed?

Requesting for ring tones, operator logos, caller group icons or picture messages on your NOKIA celfone is easy.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Picture Messages** | | |
| Get Picture | PIC <pic name> | 288 |
| Send Picture | PIC <pic name> <recipient's mobile number> <message> | 288 |
| New Picture | PIC NEW | 288 |
| Top Ten Pictures | PIC TOPTEN | 288 |
| **Ring tones** | | |
| Get Tone | TONE <tone menu> | 288 |
| Send Tone | TONE <tone name> <recipient's mobile number> | 288 |
| New | TONE NEW | 288 |
| Top 10 | TONE TOPTEN | 288 |
| Categories | TONEMENU | 233 |
| Search | TONESEARCH <category> or <title> or <artist> | 233 |
| **Operator Logos** | | |
| Get Logo | LOGO <icon name> | 288 |
| Send Logo | LOGO <logo name> <recipient's mobile number> | 288 |
| New Logos | LOGO NEW | 288 |
| Top 10 | LOGO TOPTEN | 288 |
| Categories | LOGOMENU | 233 |
| Search | LOGOSEARCH <category> or <name> | 233 |
| **Group Icons** | | |
| Get Icons | ICON <icon name> | 288 |
| Send icons | ICON <icon name> <recipient's mobile number> | 288 |
| New | ICON NEW | 233 |
| Top 10 | ICON TOPTEN | 233 |

Please refer to your SMART zed Keywords Manual or scroll down the SMART zed Menu on your SMART zed STK SIM card to access these services.

**REMINDERS:**

a) Downloading of RING TONES and OPERATOR LOGOS can only be done using NOKIA 3210, 3310, 6150, 6210, 7110, 8210 and 8850 celfone models.
b) Downloading of CALLER GROUP ICONS can only be done using NOKIA 6150, 6210, 7110, 8210 and 8850 celfone models.
c) Downloading of PICTURE MESSAGES can only be done using NOKIA 3210, 3310, 6210, 8210 and 8850 celfone models.

## 15. What are the charges / rates of SMART zed services?

| Basic SMART zed Info services | P2.50/request |
|---|---|
| Download of Ring tones, Logos, Caller Group Icons, Picture Messages | P12/request |
| SMART zed Finder | P15/ request |

## 16. Am I charged for the message I send or for the message I receive?

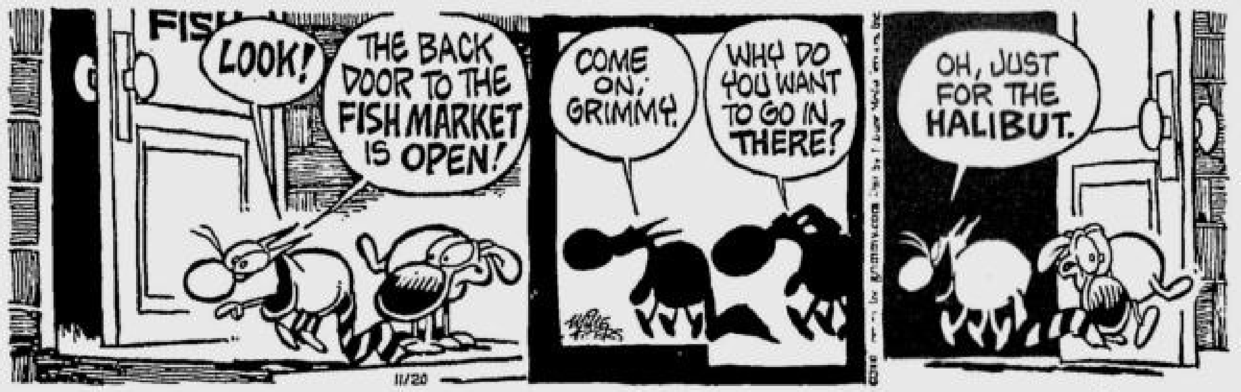
You are only charged for the message you send. For instance, if you request for NEWS, you only pay P2.50 for it even if the reply to you is a three-part text message. Also, you will not be charged for "The info you requested is not available at the moment" replies.

## 17. Where can I get more information about SMART zed?

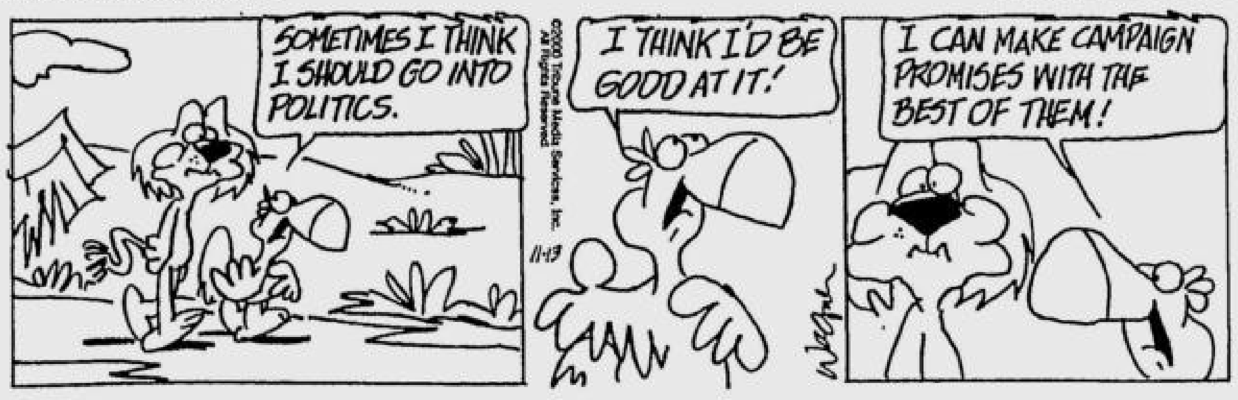
You can get more information about SMART zed by visiting the SMART website at **www.smart.com.ph** or **www.smart.zed.com**. You can also visit the SMART Telecenter nearest you to pick up a copy of the SMART zed Keywords Manual. For SMART zed inquiries, you can e-mail us at **customercare@smart.com.ph.**

SMART zed your celfone now!

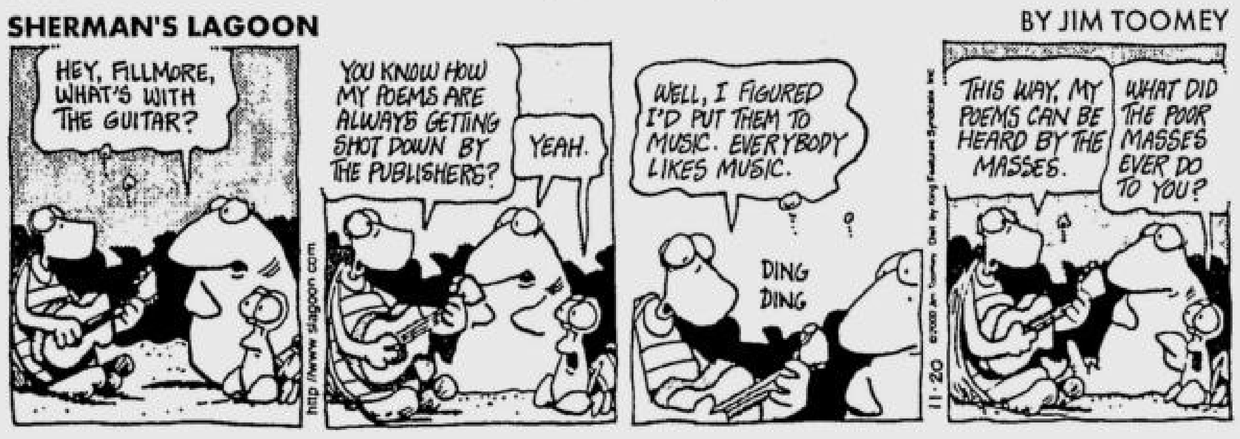
**MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM** BY MIKE PETERS


FISH
LOOK!
THE BACK DOOR TO THE FISH MARKET IS OPEN!
COME ON, GRIMMY.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO IN THERE?
OH, JUST FOR THE HALIBUT.
11/20

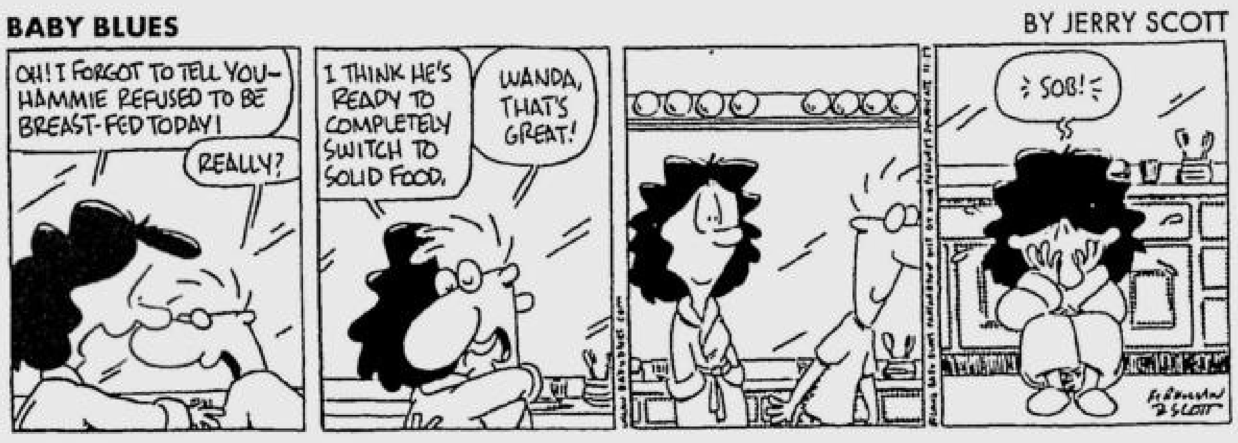
**ANIMAL CRACKER** BY FRED WAGNER


SOMETIMES I THINK I SHOULD GO INTO POLITICS.
I THINK I'D BE GOOD AT IT!
I CAN MAKE CAMPAIGN PROMISES WITH THE BEST OF THEM!
11-13

**SHERMAN'S LAGOON** BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, FILLMORE, WHAT'S WITH THE GUITAR?
YOU KNOW HOW MY POEMS ARE ALWAYS GETTING SHOT DOWN BY THE PUBLISHERS?
YEAH.
WELL, I FIGURED I'D PUT THEM TO MUSIC. EVERYBODY LIKES MUSIC.
DING DING
THIS WAY, MY POEMS CAN BE HEARD BY THE MASSES.
WHAT DID THE POOR MASSES EVER DO TO YOU?
http://www.slagoon.com
11-20

**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


OH! I FORGOT TO TELL YOU- HAMMIE REFUSED TO BE BREAST-FED TODAY!
REALLY?
I THINK HE'S READY TO COMPLETELY SWITCH TO SOLID FOOD.
WANDA, THAT'S GREAT!
SOB!

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Elvis Presley, Mike Reno, Robbie Kreiger, David Bowie, Gaby Hoffman, R. Kelly

**Happy Birthday:** You will find the strength to finish what you start. Your timing will be much better, and the confusion that has plagued you for some time will turn into creative energy. It will be an outgoing, adventuresome year as long as you take advantage of all the interesting events going on around you. Don't sit back contemplating what you should be doing; jump in with two feet. Your numbers: 6, 19, 21, 24, 33, 45

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You will find it difficult to separate your emotional life from your professional one today. Don't become involved in love triangles or allow your infatuations to get out of hand.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Let your feelings for your lover flow. Write a love letter, or call and say how much you care. The only limitation is the one you put on yourself.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Sudden losses will be hard to recoup if you haven't taken precautions when getting involved in personal investments with other people. Cut your losses and get involved in conservative projects.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Get out and visit friends or relatives. Your partner will be reluctant to cause any trouble in front of others. Your involvement in groups will be rewarding.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You should look into all your professional possibilities. You may not be too happy with the changes taking place at work, but sit tight and your patience will pay off.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You must channel your energy wisely. Do things that will help you better yourself. Physical activities will lead to greater self-esteem. You can complete hobbies if you put your mind to it.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Changes taking place in your home are necessary. You may feel you're being rejected, but the result will be in your favor. It's time for you to get out to do the things you enjoy.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't be too quick to judge others or to volunteer incriminating information. You may be able to help someone you care about just by listening or spending time with him or her.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You can certainly make money today, but you can also let it slip through your fingers. Don't even think of lending to others or making large contributions to organizations.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You will have a problem controlling your emotions if you let the complaints of others get to you. Keep busy and don't let your spending habits get out of hand.

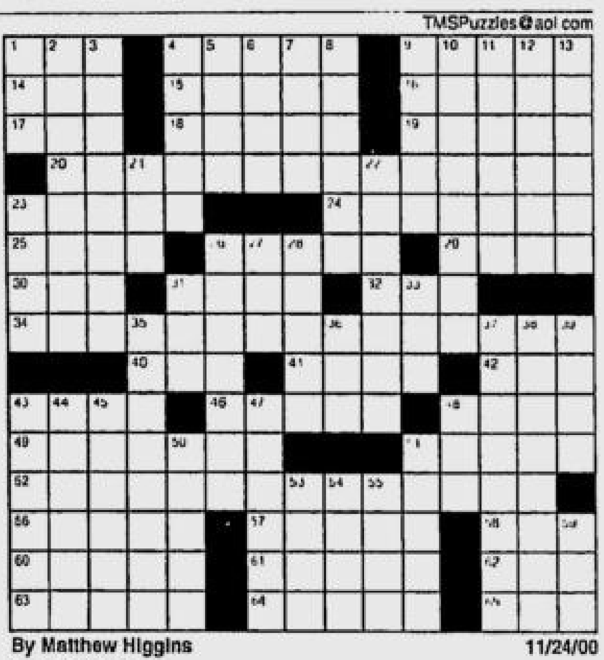
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Your greater interest in philosophy will lead you into new territories. Travel or enlightening talks will be satisfying and lead to lasting connections.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Children may not be the easiest to handle if you have not been paying attention to them lately. You must lay down the law, but don't forget to do so with love.

**Birthday Baby:** You are emotional, imaginative and curious. You are forever asking questions and coming up with solutions. You are quick, controversial and always where the action is.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

11/24/00

**ACROSS**
1 Work unit
4 Caught some Zs
9 Very overweight
14 Neither's partner?
15 Netherworld
16 Object sought on chivalrous quests
17 Ike's WWII command
18 Get up
19 Administered medicine
20 Sufficient?
23 Steps over a fence
24 Fourteen-line poems
25 Evergreen
26 Walking sticks
29 Annoying child
30 Camp bed
31 Buckeye State
32 Motorists' org.
34 One's loss?
40 Brick carrier
41 Indigenous people of Japan
42 Fighting Tigers' sch.
43 Rajah's wife
46 Stuffed __ (kishke)
48 Public disorder
49 Make excessive demands on
51 Throat-clearing sounds
52 Half a loaf?
56 Record
57 Mountain ash
58 24-hour bank access
60 Sovereign
61 Over
62 Refrain syllable
63 Very small
64 Flatfishes
65 Hurricane center

**DOWN**
1 Wind dir.
2 Pool game
3 Become big enough for
4 Possess jointly
5 Clarified fat
6 Revise
7 Mexican bread
8 African fly
9 Humorous poet Nash
10 Lunch carrier
11 Less difficult
12 Nap in Baja California
13 First-born
21 Bullring cheer
22 Shout of adoration
23 Pet protection grp.
26 Type of cheese
27 Publicize
28 Slugger Garciaparra
31 Exclamation of surprise
33 Sun Devils' sch.
35 Baker's dozen
36 Objective
37 Estrange
38 Equality of measure
39 Not playing with a full deck
43 De Niro of "Raging __"
44 Street crosser
45 Irritate
47 Frills
48 Greek letter
50 Actress Moore
51 Bancroft and Baxter
53 Tramp
54 MP's quarry
55 Church part
59 West of Hollywood

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | M | E | S | ■ | U | S | D | A | ■ | A | T | L | A | S |
| L | I | L | T | ■ | R | A | I | N | ■ | D | I | O | D | E |
| T | R | I | O | ■ | C | L | O | T | ■ | H | A | L | E | N |
| O | V | E | R | T | H | E | R | I | V | E | R | A | N | D |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | M | A | I | M | ■ | ■ | E | R | A | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| I | A | T | ■ | E | N | S | N | A | R | E | ■ | S | M | U |
| I | C | I | N | G | ■ | ■ | U | S | S | ■ | C | L | A | P |
| T | H | R | O | U | G | H | T | H | E | W | O | O | D | S |
| L | E | E | R | ■ | E | A | T | ■ | ■ | A | D | O | R | E |
| E | S | S | ■ | L | A | D | Y | B | U | G | ■ | P | E | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | A | R | ■ | ■ | O | M | O | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| T | H | A | N | K | S | G | I | V | I | N | G | D | A | Y |
| H | A | S | T | E | ■ | A | S | I | A | ■ | L | I | M | A |
| A | L | T | E | R | ■ | S | A | N | K | ■ | E | V | I | L |
| T | E | A | R | S | ■ | H | O | E | S | ■ | D | A | D | E |

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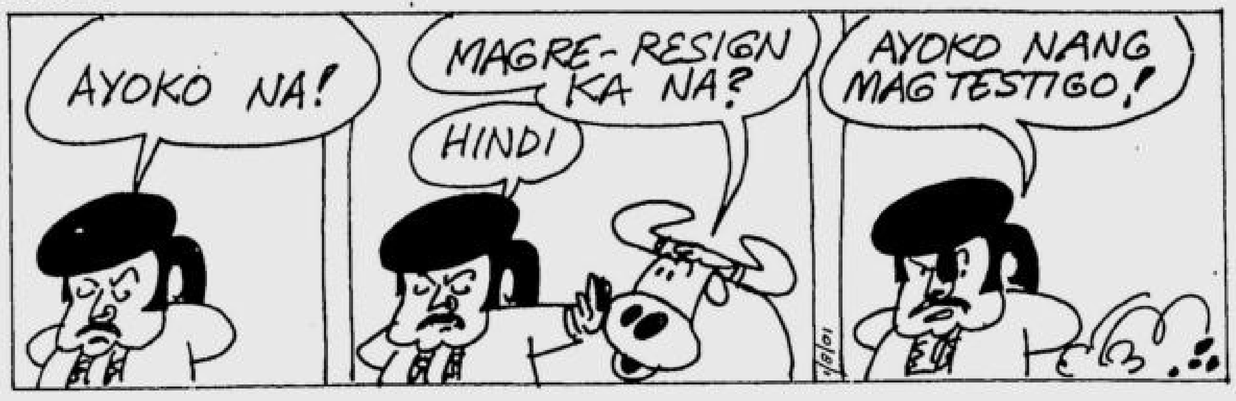
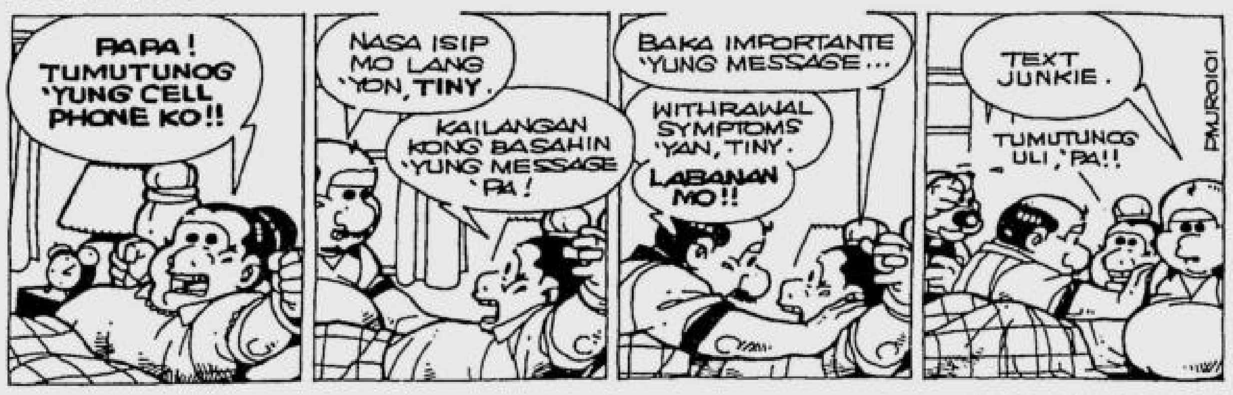
11/24/00

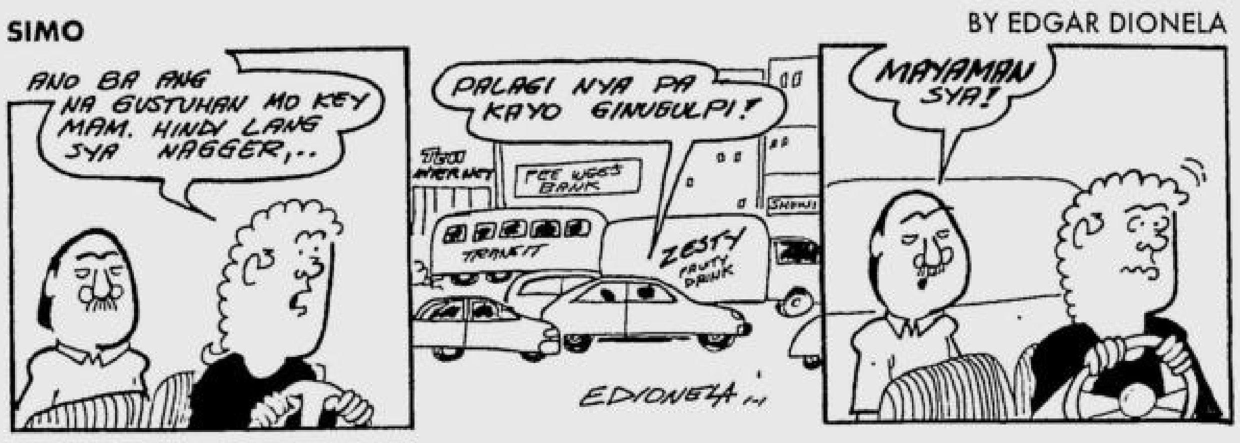
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA


AYOKO NA!
MAGRE-RESIGN KA NA?
HINDI
AYOKO NANG MAGTESTIGO!
1/8/01

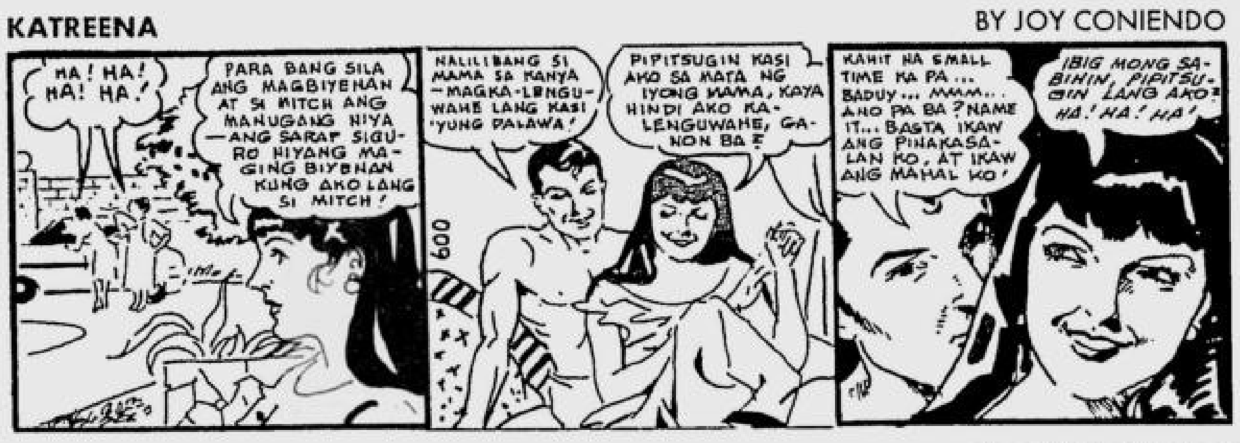
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAPA! TUMUTUNOG 'YUNG CELL PHONE KO!!
NASA ISIP MO LANG 'YON, TINY.
KAILANGAN KONG BASAHIN 'YUNG MESSAGE 'PA!
BAKA IMPORTANTE 'YUNG MESSAGE...
WITHRAWAL SYMPTOMS 'YAN, TINY.
LABANAN MO!!
TEXT JUNKIE.
TUMUTUNOG ULI, 'PA!!
PMJR0101

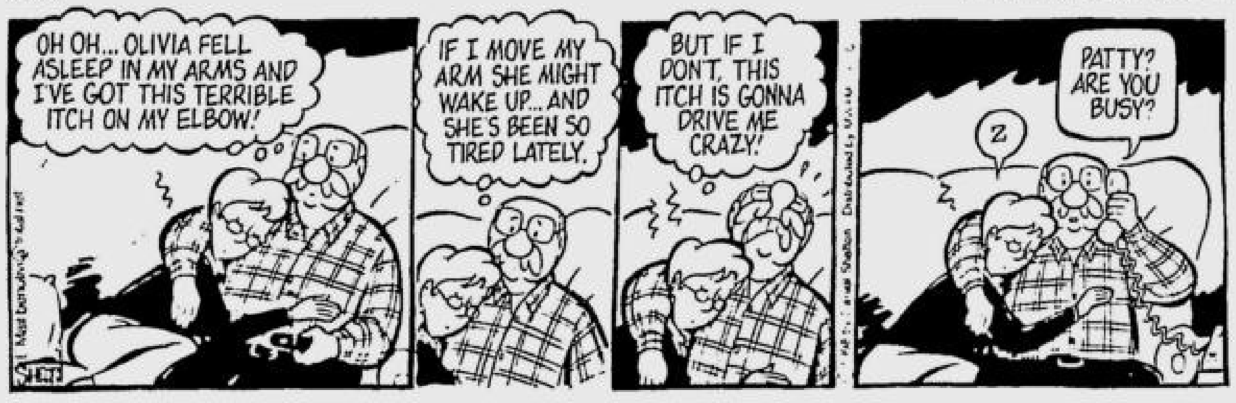
**SIMO** BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANO BA ANG NA GUSTUHAN MO KEY MAM. HINDI LANG SYA NAGGER,..
PALAGI NYA PA KAYO GINUGULPI!
FEE WEE'S BANK
TRANSIT
ZESTY FRUITY DRINK
MAYAMAN SYA!
EDIONELA

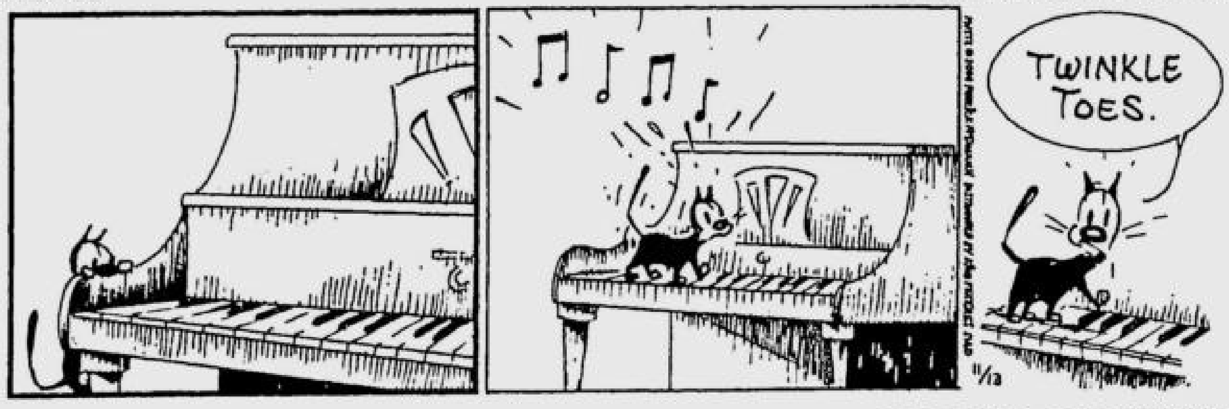
**KATREENA** BY JOY CONIENDO


HA! HA! HA! HA!
PARA BANG SILA ANG MAGBIYENAN AT SI MITCH ANG MANUGANG NIYA —ANG SARAP SIGURO NIYANG MAGING BIYENAN KUNG AKO LANG SI MITCH!
NALILIBANG SI MAMA SA KANYA —MAGKA-LENGUWAHE LANG KASI 'YUNG DALAWA!
PIPITSUGIN KASI AKO SA MATA NG IYONG MAMA, KAYA HINDI AKO KA-LENGUWAHE, GANON BA?
KAHIT NA SMALL TIME KA PA... BADUY... MMM... ANO PA BA? NAME IT... BASTA IKAW ANG PINAKASALAN KO, AT IKAW ANG MAHAL KO!
IBIG MONG SABIHIN, PIPITSUGIN LANG AKO? HA! HA! HA!
600

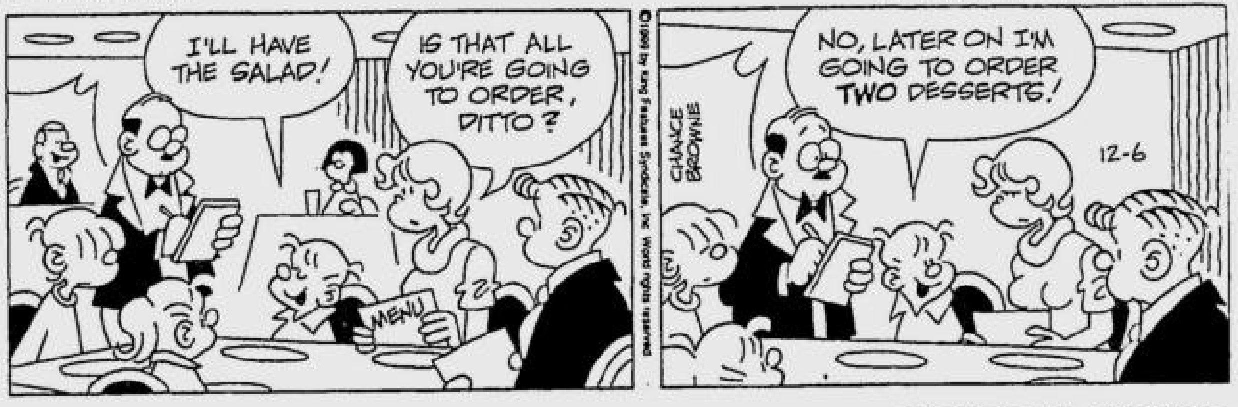
**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH OH... OLIVIA FELL ASLEEP IN MY ARMS AND I'VE GOT THIS TERRIBLE ITCH ON MY ELBOW!
IF I MOVE MY ARM SHE MIGHT WAKE UP... AND SHE'S BEEN SO TIRED LATELY.
BUT IF I DON'T, THIS ITCH IS GONNA DRIVE ME CRAZY!
Z
PATTY? ARE YOU BUSY?

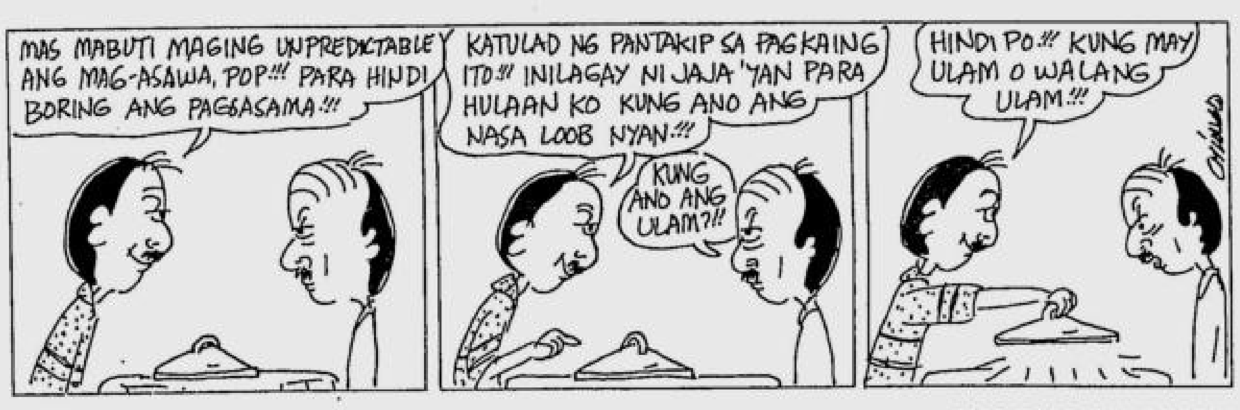
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL


TWINKLE TOES.
11/13

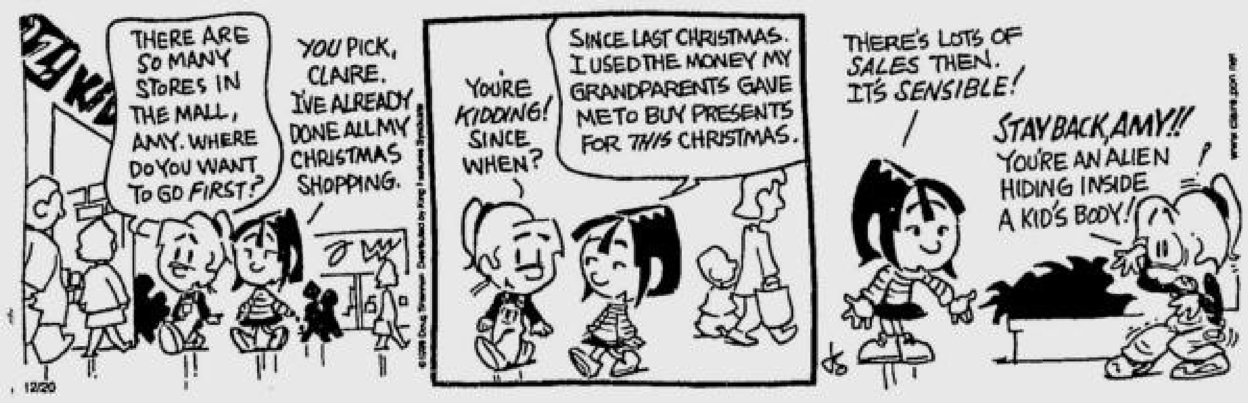
**HI AND LOIS** BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'LL HAVE THE SALAD!
IS THAT ALL YOU'RE GOING TO ORDER, DITTO?
MENU
CHANCE BROWNE
NO, LATER ON I'M GOING TO ORDER TWO DESSERTS!
12-6

**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAS MABUTI MAGING UNPREDICTABLE ANG MAG-ASAWA, POP!!! PARA HINDI BORING ANG PAGSASAMA!!!
KATULAD NG PANTAKIP SA PAGKAING ITO!!! INILAGAY NI JAJA 'YAN PARA HULAAN KO KUNG ANO ANG NASA LOOB NYAN!!!
KUNG ANO ANG ULAM?!!
HINDI PO!!! KUNG MAY ULAM O WALANG ULAM!!!
CHIONGLO

**CLAIRE** BY DOUG SHANNON


THERE ARE SO MANY STORES IN THE MALL, AMY. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO FIRST?
YOU PICK, CLAIRE. I'VE ALREADY DONE ALL MY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.
YOU'RE KIDDING! SINCE WHEN?
SINCE LAST CHRISTMAS. I USED THE MONEY MY GRANDPARENTS GAVE ME TO BUY PRESENTS FOR THIS CHRISTMAS.
THERE'S LOTS OF SALES THEN. IT'S SENSIBLE!
STAY BACK, AMY!! YOU'RE AN ALIEN HIDING INSIDE A KID'S BODY!
12/20

# One big little book

**By Daisy Lopez**

## Blessed Josemaria Escrivà's book of maxims is a readable spiritual guide

A SURVEY questionnaire I was asked to fill up recently included an oft-asked item: "What five books, aside from the Bible, would you wish you had taken with you if stranded in an island?" At first, I found the question rather trite. But soon enough, I realized it was worth considering.

I started with a quick and simple process of elimination… Thank God, I will not have to bring my "favorite classics": Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," Antoine de Saint Exupèry's "Little Prince," Trina Paulus' "Hope for the Flowers," Carmen Martín Gaite's "Caperucita en Manhattan."

I'd also bring in Shakespeare's complete works, Spanish writer Miguel Delibes' "La sombra del ciprés es alargada," and also Italian novelist Vasco Pratolini's autobiography. Then, rather sheepishly, I'd add: an Asterix comic book, something I don't think I can do without.

My fifth book is a must-bring book. I wouldn't want to be cut off from much-needed spiritual growth, so I'd like to have Blessed Josemaría Escrivá's "The Way" handy. It's one book I've read many times over, yet it's amazing how, every time I read the book—even just a few points of it—I continue to discover so much wealth in its pages! This book offers a potent collection of spiritual considerations of varied topics—encapsulated in 999 points—meditation of which indicates a sure and solid way to friendship with God. You'd be surprised at how the book always offers the right advice at the right moment. How it happens, I don't know. But it always works.

A few months ago, during a short visit to Spain, I had the chance to go to the Almudena Cathedral in Madrid, where there is a side chapel dedicated to Blessed Escrivá, founder of Opus Dei and author of "The Way." It was almost closing time when I got there, so the grill gate of the little chapel had already been bolted. Oblivious to other churchgoers and passers-by, I found myself sitting lotus position in front of the wrought-iron bars, my eyes fixed on the impressive statue and mesmerized at how real the figure looked before me. Father Escrivá seemed to be his own ventriloquist whose lips would not move as he uttered some words of encouragement which I had earlier read in his book: "Are you sad? Pray. Try it and you will see." (cf. pt. 663). I thought that that was exactly what I needed at that moment.

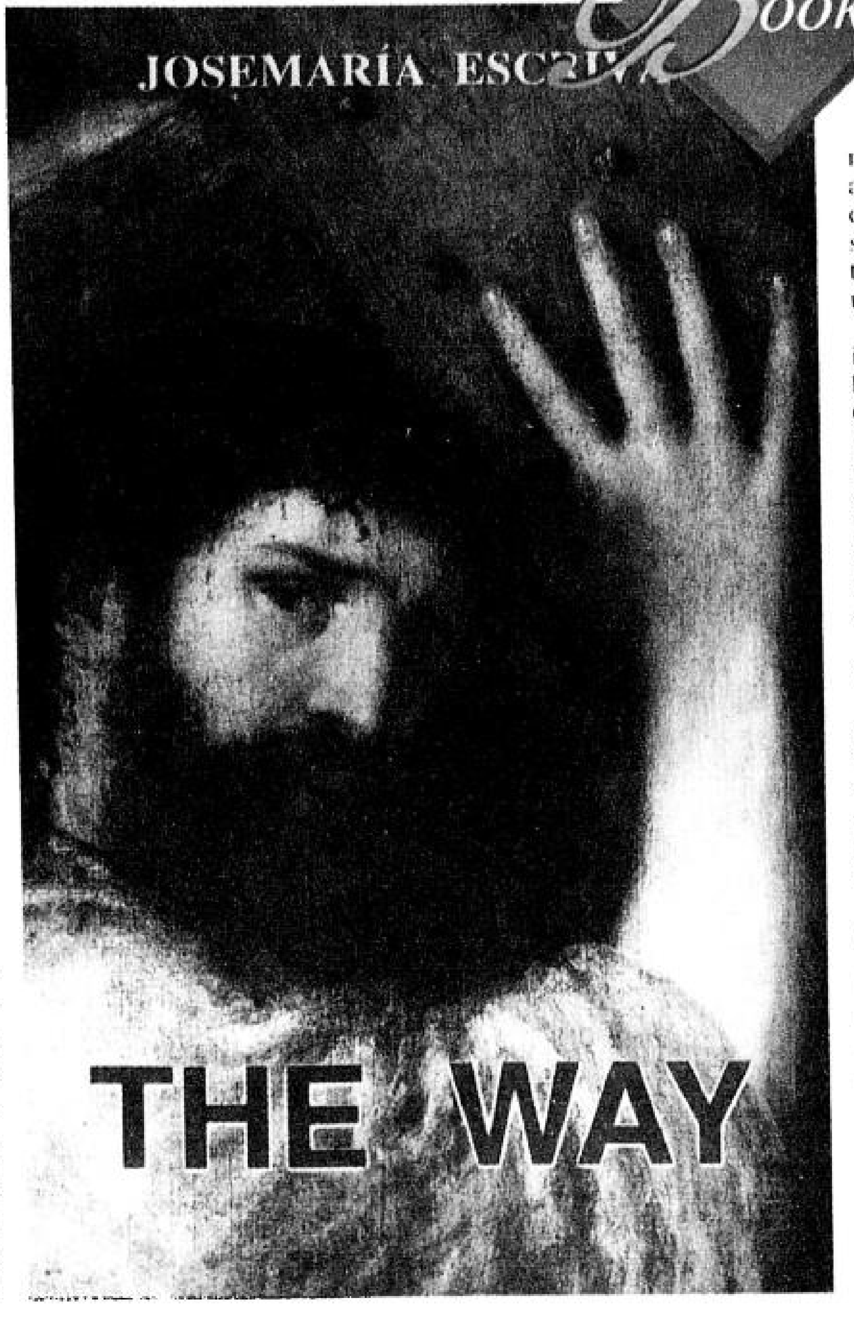
But, the main attractiveness of "The Way" is spelt out in that each point relates an episode experienced personally by the author, thus making each and every thought for meditation become even more appealing. Lately, I have tried a bit of retrospection and have been digging into the background of these captivating points.

An example is point No. 2 of the book: "May your behavior and your conversation be such that everyone who sees or hears you can say: This man reads the life of Jesus Christ."

Behind this point is a simple but impressive story. One day, while walking, Father Escrivá was reading the Gospels; as the book had a cover, it wasn't obvious what it was all about. When he passed by a construction site, one worker asked another: "What could he be reading?" To this, the other answered: "Surely, he is reading the life of Christ." Blessed Josemaría felt so confused and wondered how they could have guessed. The incident then spurred him on to be conscious of always behaving well and giving good example. At that very moment, he begged: "Jesus, may it always and truly be said of me: 'This man reads the life of Christ.' "

Another point in "The Way" (No. 281) reads: "Silence is the goalkeeper of the interior life." A football buff, Father Escrivá knew how crucial keeping strict watch and inner recollection meant, lest the opponent—our vanity and pride—score a goal in our soul.

Years of experience in directing souls have truly ratified the author's Marian devotion, as indicated in pt. 495: "To Jesus we always go, and to him we always return, through Mary." Blessed Josemaría himself explained this consideration: if one has the misfortune of separating himself from God—of slackening in the interior life, or of not being generous—all he needs to do is go to the Blessed Virgin and she will take charge of putting him back in the Heart of her Son.



Point No. 638 recounts an episode when Father Josemaría, in exchange for a big financial help extended by a lady for an apostolic project, told her: "I give you the only thing I have: the blessing from a priest," because he was more than convinced of the power of prayer, more so of the prayer of a priest.

"What holy resources poverty has! Do you remember? It was time of financial stress in your apostolic undertaking. You had given without stint down to the last penny. Then that priest of God said to you: 'May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you forever!' "

The following point takes on a different meaning as soon as we know its background: "Blessed be pain. Loved be pain. Sanctified be pain… Glorified be pain!" (pt. 208). This litany, which is an inspiring exaltation of pain, was whispered into the ear of a dying gypsy, heavily wounded after a brawl, in his deathbed. For someone who himself was not spared both physical and moral pain, Blessed Josemaría knew well how much credit this repentant gitano was earning for himself before entering heaven.

Since sacrifice can come in different forms, the author speaks of another unique offering in pt. 205:

"We were reading—you and I—the heroically ordinary life of that man of God. And we saw him struggle whole months and years (what an 'accounting' he kept in his particular examination of conscience!); one day at breakfast, he would win, the next day he'd lose… 'I didn't take butter… I did take butter…!' he would jot down.

"May we too—you and I—live our… 'drama' of the butter."

The above point speaks of a member of Opus Dei in Ireland, a place where one cannot conceive of a breakfast without butter, and this young man strove in that small detail of giving up the apparently indispensable "commodity" every morning.

Blessed Josemaría's genuine concern that souls get close to God is conveyed in point No. 804, where the reader could almost hear the author shout out forcefully: "(…) Jesus, souls! Apostolic soul! They are for you, for your glory." His apostolic work, specifically with the youth, is much reflected throughout the pages of "The Way." In pt. 274, he speaks of a practical lesson on divine filiation.

" 'Father, I was thinking about what you told me,' said that big lad, a good student at the university (I wonder what ever became of him), '… that I am a son of God! And I found myself walking along the street, head up and chin out, a feeling of pride within me… a son of God!' "

"With a clear conscience, I advised him to foster that 'pride.' "

*Jan. 9 marks the 99th birthday of Blessed Josemaría Escrivá*

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## 2nd UST National Writers Workshop now accepting applications

THE CENTER for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas is accepting applications for the 2nd UST National Writers Workshop on April 24-29.

The workshop will focus on poetry and fiction. It is open to budding writers who have not been awarded fellowships to any national writers' workshop (i.e. Silliman, UP, Iligan). An applicant should submit a hard copy of his/her manuscript, (and if possible a virus-free diskette copy [MSWord 6.0 or 7.0]) containing at least five poems and/or two short stories, a résumé and 2x2 ID photo. Applicants should also submit a certification duly signed by the head of his or her institution that the articles are authentic and have not been copied from elsewhere. There are 15 fellowships available, a percentage of which will be given to constituents of the Dominican Network of Schools, Colleges and Universities.

Send manuscripts to the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies, 1/F St. Raymund's (AB-Commerce) Building, University of Santo Tomas, Espana, Manila.The deadline for submission is Feb. 15.

A panel of top-caliber writers will screen the applications. Successful applicants will be granted fellowships that will cover modest board and lodging. To conduct the workshop are the Center's writing associates Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta, F. Sionil Jose, Cirilo F. Bautista, Joselito B. Zulueta, Rebecca T. Añonuevo, Michael Coroza, Lourd de Veyra, Ralph Semino Galan and Ramil Digal Gulle.

Call Prof. Erli Mendoza at 731-3101 local 3231.

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**DUMOL DIRECTS 'HAMLET'**

Bonggoy Manahan is Claudius while son Niccolo Manahan is Hamlet in Tanghalang Pilipino's production in English of the famous Shakespearean tragedy. The play, directed by Paul Dumol, will be mounted at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute for four weekends starting Jan. 12. Call 832-3611/1125 local 1620, 434-4181, 436-8486, (0917) 812-4519, (0918) 905-7340 and 125-1172044.

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**ZENEIDA AMADOR AS 'KING LEAR'**

The Cultural Center of the Philippines with the World Theater Project at Sambalikhaan ushers in the New Year with an exceptional staging of William Shakespeare's "King Lear," the famous drama of love, betrayal and spiritual regeneration. It stars theater titan Zeneida Amador as Lear under the direction of Anton Juan. "King Lear" goes on stage at the Theater Tanghalang Aurelio To-lentino for three weekends starting Jan. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m. with matinees at 3 p.m. on January 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28. Tickets at popular prices are now available at CCP Box Office and at all Ticketworld outlets in National Bookstore major branches, Robinsons Department stores in Galleria and Malate, and Tower Records in Glorietta and Alabang Town Center. For group bookings, call CCP Marketing at 832-3878 and 551-7930.

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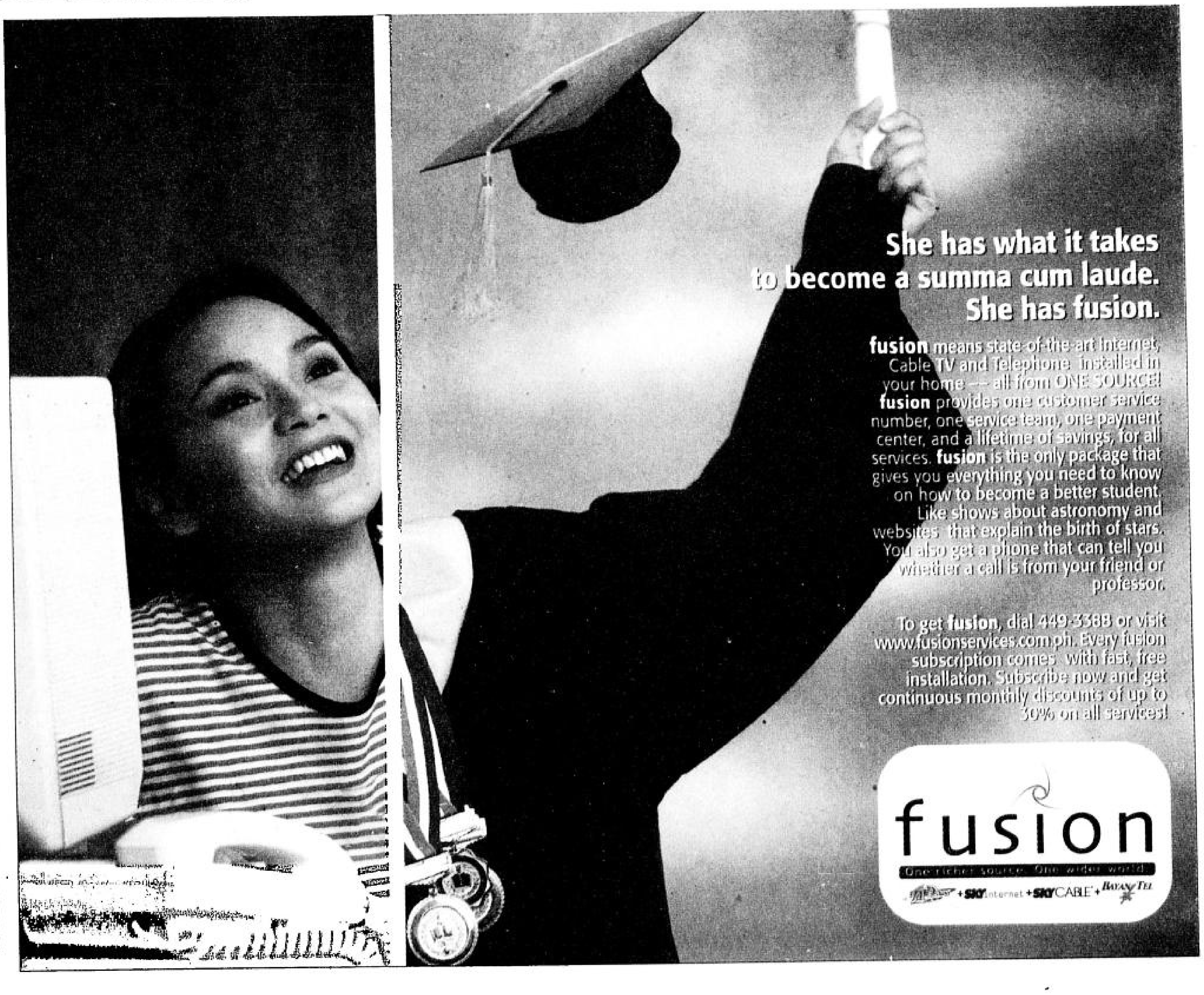
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**FILIPINO** team behind "Miss Saigon": (seated, from left) Elmer Reyes, Nikki Soriano, Ruth Colacion, Cecilia Hernandez, Liza Camus, Bobby Garcia, Andy Alviz; (standing) Gerry Fernandez, Dobi Veloso, Ed Murillo, Avie de Asis, Marge Garcia, Maro Garcia, Lambert de Jesus and Dennis Benedicto

# New cast takes over 'Saigon' in the new year

(From page D1)

study and/or "cover" who sometimes does not even have a scheduled performance, but has to stand in the wings prepared.

Also the alternate—or understudy or cover—is expected to deliver a performance in the same high standards that the show is known for. Especially when he or she takes over the lead once played by well-applauded legends.

### Blessing

**SCOTT** Anson is the new Chris.

Judging from the "new" cast that performed in the CCP Main Theater on Jan. 3, *not* having a reputation can be a blessing. The audience can get into the merits (or lack of it) of the show and be involved in the characters, and not be swept off their feet by a guaranteed fantastic concert-like performance.

Cez Campos, who takes over Salonga's Kim, has grown in the role since the first time she appeared as alternate almost four months ago. While it is true that Campos' melodic voice does not come anywhere near as close to Salonga's soaring singing, her young Vietnamese girl-in-love is definitely more vulnerable and touching. One can believe her panicky fright when her jilted lover finally finds her, and her anger and terror when she lashes out at Ellen. With her expressive, innocent face and pliant frame, Campos' Kim has a raw courage that, unlike Salonga's, is not self-confident; she comes off convincingly as a casualty of war.

Jon-jon Briones didn't quite make a splash as the Engineer in the first flashing-red scenes of whoring Dreamland. His forced cockiness in the larger-than-life role made it look like he was compensating for his small stature. Fortunately, he began to stand tall, starting after the rise of Ho Chi Minh; disheveled, beaten and caked in mud, Briones' Engineer was a cunning rat coming out of his hellhole. And doing it with a delicious sense of irony at the misfortunes of life. And, no, he was not Valdez's copycat.

Scott Anson's disillusioned Chris is angrier and tougher than Will Chase's quintessential-golden-boy-who-believed-in-America. His scars scream much more than his passion, which worked effectively for some scenes, but not in others.

Arvin Quirante packs a mean baritone as the vengeful, hardened Thuy, but he still needs to work on the tenderness in his courtship scenes with Kim. Otherwise, the love part of his passion for her isn't plain believable. Christine Sambelli as Gigi is more bluster than bite; while her cynicism does nicely counter Kim's innocence, she needs more arrogance as the bordello's lead Mama.

### Unexpected surprise

The unexpected surprise of the night, though, is Menchu Lauchengco Yulo who covered for Ellen. Yulo is undoubtedly one of the finest actresses in Philippine stage today—but even her "humanizing" of an unsympathetic role is stunning. She adds a whole new dimension to a character that, at least in Manila, has turned off the audiences with her coldness, though understandable, toward Kim. Frankly, any actress playing the under-written Ellen is facing a no-win scenario: as the one great barrier between the reunion of Chris and Kim, she becomes an unwilling and unwitting villainess, but a villainess, nevertheless.

Somehow, Yulo's Ellen conveys a compassion toward Kim, something I've never seen before in the previous performances. She is actually reaching out to her. Her growing horror as she slowly understands Chris' inner torture mirrored his own. In the end, Yulo's Ellen comes across as a co-victim, not a distant observer, who shares the same purgatory as her husband and his ex-lover.

That's another reward of watching the "other" cast. You get to see a different approach and a different characterization, which add freshness to worn-out, familiar material. That's where resident director Bobby Garcia and the rest of the Filipino creative team now managing the production step in.

Yulo, who has played a lot of the leading-lady roles in many English-language musicals, says that one of the things she values in this production, though she's playing a minor part, is this almost nitpicking attention to detail and the rigorous maintenance of the set standards. "We [here in the Philippines] don't have the luxury to perfect a show before it opens. We do that as the show goes on. By the time you close the show, it's brilliant. [The actor has] grown in the role."

The lack of funds does not allow for three "covers" for one role. So, "If something goes wrong, like you break your leg, you still go on. I don't think there's ever a history when the alternate goes on after the intermission," Yulo said. "Junix Inocian opened in crutches when he did 'Sweeney Todd'."

**CHRISTINE** Sambelli is Gigi understudy.

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Jan. 13 (Sat.), 9:00 - 12:00 noon, BASIC CAKES & ICING FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison P1,200
Jan. 15-19, 22-26 (Mon.-Fri.), 9:00 - 4:00 p.m., MASTER IN CAKE DECORATION/ BASIC by Heny Sison P8,000
Jan. 20 (Sat.), 9:00 - 4:00 p.m., BAKING 1 by Heny Sison — Super Moist Chocolate Cake with Mocha Filling and Fudge Frostings, Sylvana, Cream Puff, Lemon Pie, Butter Scotch Bars and Sables P 1,200
Jan. 27(Sat.),10:00 - 4:00 p.m.CREPE WORKSHOP by: Jill Sandique - Chef Food Consultant, Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate, Peter Kump's New York Cooking School P1,500
Jan. 29 (Mon.), 9:30 - 4:00 p.m., SIMPLE PLEASURES by: Jill Sandique P1,200
Jan. 30 (Tue.) 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. , FRENCH COOKING SERIES: LESSON 1 by: Jill Sandique - Stuffed Mushroom, Mussels Steam in White Wine, Braised Pork Loin with Prunes and Cream Sauce, Sauce Vinaigrette and its variations, Pommes de Terre, Mettes on Persillade and Oranges with Grand Marnier P1,500
Jan. 31 (Wed.), 9:00 - 12:30 noon, ELEGANT DESSERTS by: Jill Sandique P1,200
Jan. 31 (Wed.), 1:30 - 5:00 p.m., COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by Aileen Anastacio - Chef, Food Consultant, owner of C'est Si Bon, graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy P1,200
Feb. 1 (Thur.), 1:30 - 5:00 p.m., VALENTINE DINNER by: Aileen Anastacio - Crispy Fried Calamari on a Bed of Greens w/ Lemon Vinaigrette, Pasta with Smoked Salmon, Capers & Dill, Grilled Beef Tenderloin with Bearnaise Sauce, Herbed Mashed Potatoes, Battered Vegetables & Chocolate Fondue with Fresh Fruits P1,500
Feb. 2 (Fri.), 9:30 - 4:00 p.m., BAKER'S DOZEN by Jill Sandique — Italian Loaf, Walnut Raisin Rolls, Champagne Fingers, Peach Upside Down Cake, Triple Chocolate Brownies and Chocolate Cream P1,200
Feb. 3 (Sat.), 9:30 - 4:30 p.m., BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Mr. Glenn Remorca, floral designer P2,000
Feb. 5 - 6 (Mon.- Tue.), 9:30 - 4:00 p.m., FOOD SANITATION & SAFETY by: Mr. Vinay Daswani, Professor, Sanitation & Hygiene Systems, Hotel & Tourism Institute of the Phils. & Quality Assurance Director, Tequila P3,000

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